

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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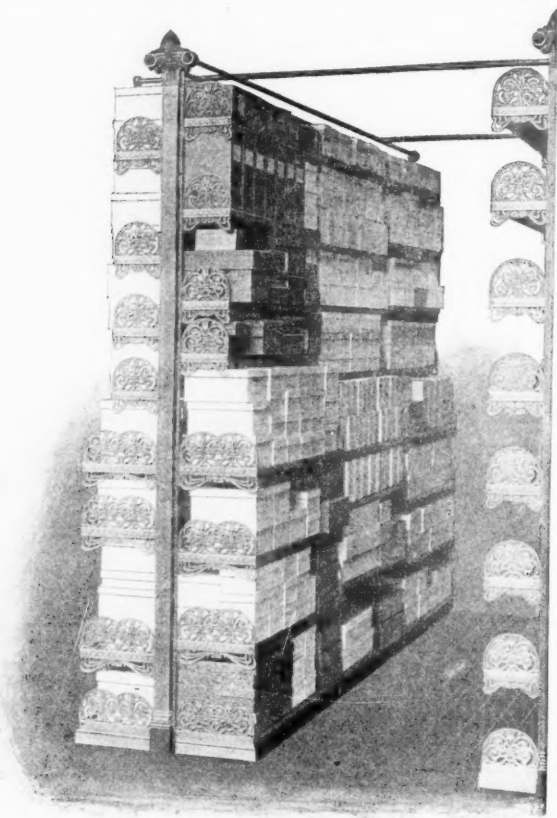
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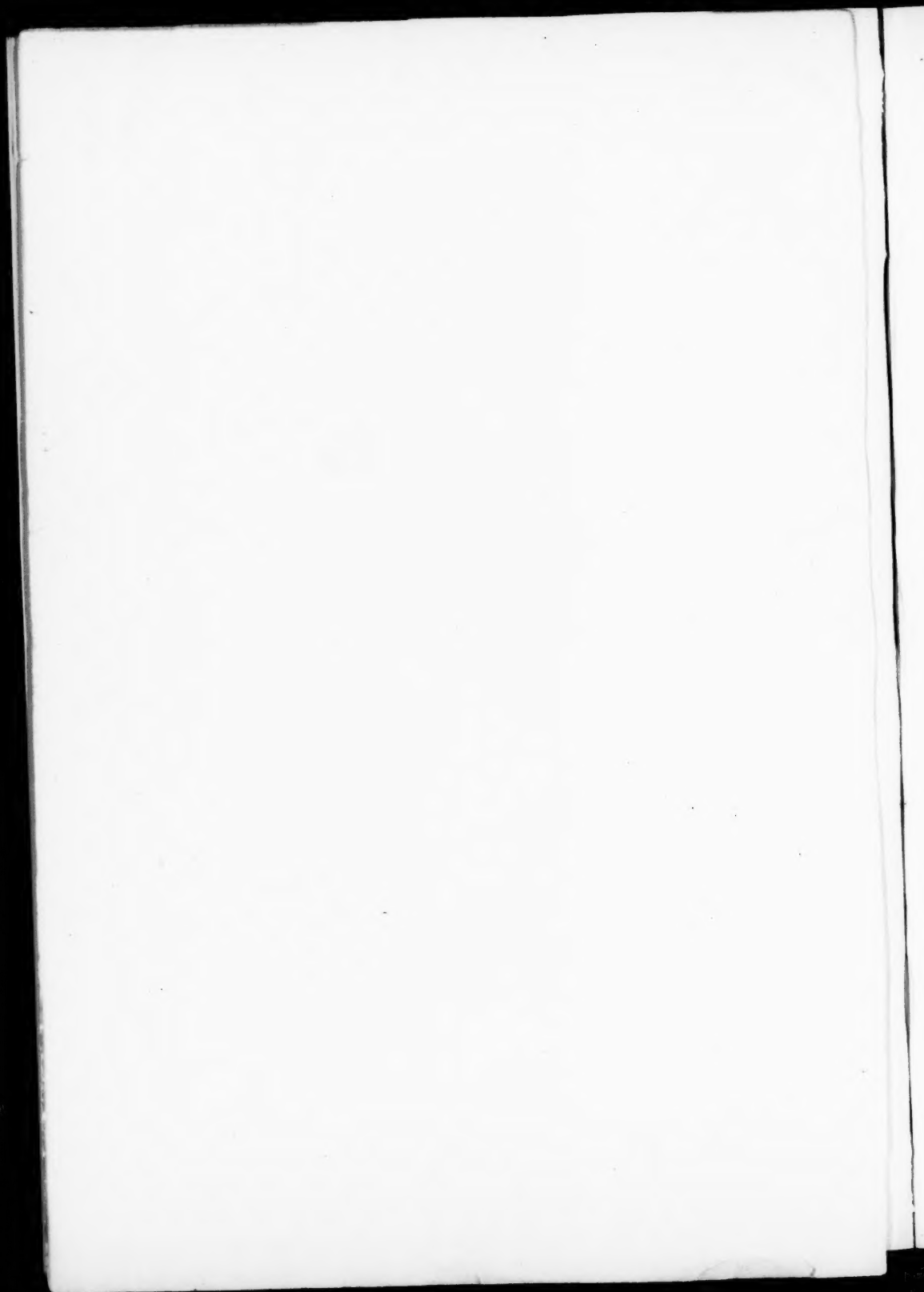
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Public Libraries

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Librarianship as a Profession

W. O. Thompson, president Ohio State university

The topic assigned to me suggests a number of interesting queries, among which I name: 1) What is librarianship? 2) Is it a profession? 3) Is it a desirable calling to enter? and 4) What ought to be the attitude of the public to such work?

It is evident that a complete account of what is involved in any one of these queries would occupy more space than is at my disposal. I shall not attempt such an orderly task, but content myself, if not my readers, with a somewhat free ramble over the territory, much as we used to ramble over the hills and through the woods in the hope that an occasional wild flower might have sufficient appreciation to pay for the journey.

Like many another pedagog I went to the dictionaries with the hope of settling a point or two, and thus have my bearings determined at the outset of my journey.

The first thing that struck my eyes was this definition of a profession: An occupation that properly involves a liberal education or its equivalent, and mental, rather than manual labor, especially one of the three learned professions. There it was, but I suddenly said, Why, that is medieval and out of date. We now know that all education is liberal in that its great end is to liberalize and free the soul; and, further, we are past the number of three in the

learned professions; at any rate some professions are more learned than any of the three referred to. I then passed on to this: The act of professing or declaring. That which is avowed or professed. Immediately I saw that a tremendous majority would indorse that definition, and by the very act of professing we could make anything, even librarianship, a profession. That seemed too easy, so I went on to another dictionary. Here I was told that a profession was "the calling or occupation which one professes to understand and to follow." That was still easier, and I regretted that in my youthful days, when digging drains and putting down tile, I had not voted myself a professional man laboriously following my profession. Surely I professed to understand my occupation, and I was forced to follow it. To this I could have brought abundant testimony.

Then again I read that a profession was "a vocation in which a professed knowledge of some department of science or learning is used, by its practical application to affairs of others, either in advising, guiding, or teaching them, or in serving their interests or welfare in the practice of an art founded on it." I here saw that a great many things could be included, and but few things excluded. Thus it will be seen the dictionaries did me no special service. These definitions would include almost anything. We must look then to a consensus of opinion among intelligent people for information. As I cast about for this opinion I readily

saw that every true profession did involve a considerable amount of education and learning, and that only they could be professional people who were willing to forego much that the world offers. I saw that it meant something to which one could devote his life and energies with the hope of having both dignity of position, respect from the people, and assurance of a never-ending task. Immediately it occurred to me that librarianship met all these and many other tests. Is there not here an opportunity to devote the whole of one's life and energy with a never-ending task before him? Does it not require a considerable education of a very accurate and liberal character, and as for dignity—who can better assume it than the librarian, when an ordinary citizen meekly walks in to inquire whether America was ever discovered or whether it was always here. Moreover, the worldly emoluments of the office are such as to insure humility, that will more than counterbalance any evil effects flowing from the contrasted intelligence of the librarian as related to the humble seeker after knowledge.

Having thus satisfactorily settled the question involved, viz: that librarianship is a profession, I mused upon the preparation needed for such a distinct class. Here I found myself asking what a library was anyhow. I recalled that many people supposed it was a pile of books. Just as bricks make a house so books make a library. It then occurred to me that hod-carriers and librarians were hardworked people, for certainly piling up books and piling up bricks could not be child's play. From early childhood I had agreed with the wise man that much study was a weariness of the flesh, and as I contemplated the great piles of books in the world I felt disposed to offer an amendment to the authorized version, and propose the suggestion that of piling up books there was no end. It seemed to me that this conception of a library left no place for a profession. Not only this, it left no sufficient reason for piling them up. I could not repress my indignation at the

folly of some people, who purchased fine bindings and put them behind glass doors under the vain delusion that they had a library.

What, then, is a library? Will books make it? I wish to say very earnestly that books will not make a library. Something more is needed. You cannot have a library without books, but you can have books without a library. What, then, is needed? To begin with, a library is a fountain that flows perennially while the current is under the immediate control of the librarian. It is not merely a place where the intellectually hungry may go for food, but a fountain of life where the needs of life may be promptly met. It is not enough that the world have knowledge. We must have this knowledge organized so that the present generation may profit by the experience of past generations, and escape the greater portion of their misfortunes. There can be no progress while each generation must plow through the same furrows as its predecessor. Now it is not only the collection of the world's knowledge and experience that is needed, but this collection must be organized, and then the work of education may begin. It is evident that three good things are found in all good libraries—collection, organization, and the application of these collections to the needs of men. Here is where the educational work of the modern library begins. If I may now say it, the chief advance made in the modern library is indicated in these particulars. We have come to see that the library must be brought to the service of the people. In a very real sense life is too short to be frittered away in a fruitless search of—we know not what. In my judgment the day is not far distant when the library will need to discard some books as truly as to collect others.

Librarianship must come into vital touch with this problem. It must collect, organize, and apply the intellectual labors of men to the best welfare of the individual and of the multitude. To every book that appears claiming the attention of the public he must with

keenest intelligence put the queries as to the subject treated, its appropriateness in a library, and its relative desirability as related to other books on the same or other subjects.

To succeed in such work librarianship should command talent of the very highest order. No one should seek such a calling until assured of an abiding interest in learning, and in learning as related to the welfare of the people. The enthusiasm necessary to carry on such work is born only of high ideals. The whole area of human learning must be studied with sympathetic interest. No narrow specialism will ever construct or operate a great library.

With such thoughts in mind there can be no uncertain reply to the question whether librarianship is an attractive profession. It certainly cannot attract to itself the narrow-minded or the selfish. It furnishes no field for the display of those qualities of heart and mind which accompany a love of display, an ambition for power, and others I need not mention. The librarian must be a public servant. He must at any moment be willing to lose his own desire in a service to the public and to the individual. All his life and all his work are to be directed toward, and in the interest of, others. This service, too, is of a most intelligent and painstaking sort. It is idle for us to think of such a life as a bed of roses. It is true that up to this time many people do not understand the work and therefore cannot appreciate it. This is not to say that we may disregard the situation and seek our ease. We are to live to our own ideals—not to the tastes or the intelligence of the people. It is to the librarian, then, that we must look for leadership in making our libraries more and more a wise and valuable investment for the good of the people.

There remains for me now just a word on the interesting question of the attitude of the people toward the profession.

It goes without saying that the attitude should be appreciative. It is well to remember, however, that apprecia-

tion seldom outruns our intelligence. The person who has been served by a library usually appreciates the value of a librarian. I well remember my first experience in a library of considerable size. I need not relate it here. It is the same story everywhere. It may not be out of place to suggest in this presence that intelligent service will precede intelligent appreciation. Like many another good thing in the world, librarianship must win its way in the world. I do not regret this. It is better for all parties concerned that merit by a successful demonstration shall take a place from which no passion or prejudice can dislodge it. The modern library is steadily gaining in power.

This is due chiefly to superior and efficient librarianship. There is no danger lurking in the future. We need have no anxiety about the fact of the usefulness of our libraries in the future. The only question is the measure of that usefulness. This question depends primarily upon the librarian, but also upon the wisdom and liberality with which the management provides for carrying into effect the plans of intelligent librarianship. We need, therefore, to impress the public with the fact that successful administration multiplies the power of a library.

Now this appreciation of which I speak is not without a reason. The public needs to understand that a well-organized library not only increases intelligence, but makes for quiet and order. Books minister to life, and deal with the spiritual and universal in men. The man who can sit down and quietly read for two hours will become more and more a lover of the home, a friend of good order, and a keeper of the peace. I venture the assertion that a wise distribution of well-organized and efficiently operated libraries would do more to keep the peace than the state militia could possibly do.

In the work before him the librarian must not lose sight of the close relation he sustains to all other educational forces. In a very true sense he supplements the work of the teacher and the

preacher. The school and the church having a natural and early hold upon almost the entire population will come more and more to appreciate the work of the librarian. It will be seen that he is related to his books and the public much as the organizers of our great industrial enterprises are related to the capital they use, and to the public they serve. Steadily and surely communities will find such an office a public necessity. Like the physician, the lawyer, the teacher, the preacher, the merchant and the employer of labor, the librarian will be recognized as a part of the forces serving the public. His place is being prepared now, and an intelligent public will call for trained and efficient service to meet the demand.

A closing word now as to the librarian's opportunity and duty here. Starting with the premise that intelligent service must precede any considerable appreciation, let me urge the need of painstaking and specific preparation for the work as regards scholarship and training. But I wish especially to emphasize the motives that must prompt to the service. Public service is the great truth never to be forgotten. The library is to be the center of life and activity for the multitudes. There must be public spirit in every useful librarian. Such public servants while familiar with the quiet recesses of the alcove must also have a clear vision of public life and public duty. To the successful performance of this task no mean abilities will be sufficient. Moreover, the large heart, the clear head and the just judgment should unite in every librarian to make him both the efficient officer and the ideal citizen. To him is committed a public trust. May we not, by justly magnifying the importance of the work, bring to it better service, better officers, and eventually a better attitude on the part of the public? The quality of our motives in entering the service will do much to determine the quality of our service. Let us therefore seek an intelligent conception of our undertaking. We shall then have an open way to a more efficient service.

A New Library Movement in Missouri

A committee of leading librarians in Missouri have sent out a circular with the idea of stirring up sufficient interest in library matters in that state to organize a state library association.

The following is an extract from the letter which has been sent out, answers to which are to be sent to J. T. Gerould, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.:

It has long been felt by many of those interested in the progress of the library movement in the state of Missouri, that an organization should be formed which should serve as a means of communication between the various libraries of the state, and as a central bureau from which information could be sought by any who are interested in the formation of new libraries or in the reorganization of those already established. Similar organizations are already in existence in at least nineteen other states, and have had, always and everywhere, a large influence in the educational progress of the state. Surely Missouri, so progressive in other educational lines, should not be backward in this respect.

To this end the undersigned hereby make a call upon the various libraries and directors of libraries, and trustees of institutions conducting libraries, to meet in the auditorium of the Academic building of the University of Missouri, at 12 o'clock noon, on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1900. We would respectfully request that you lay this communication before the directors, trustees, or other governing body of your library.

It is intended that this meeting and association shall be composed, not only of librarians, but also of the directors and trustees controlling the various libraries of the state of Missouri. We also request that you do us the great kindness and courtesy of writing and advising us whether we can expect any persons representing your library at this meeting, and if so, the name of such persons.

Reference Work in Small Circulating Libraries

Arthur E. Bostwick, Brooklyn public library

Libraries are divided by rough popular classification into reference libraries and circulating or lending libraries, according as the users are or are not permitted to take their books out of the library building. But as in general every circulating library has some books that it deems inexpedient to lend for home use, most circulating libraries are, on the basis of this classification, also reference libraries, and on a still broader classification they are reference libraries to just the extent that all their books, even those that are permitted to circulate, are used in the building.

The modern public library of course finds it necessary to provide systematically for both kinds of use, and hence may be of more importance as a reference library than as a circulating library. But there are some libraries—like most branch libraries in cities, and many libraries in the smaller towns—that are circulating libraries first and foremost. In these the reference work must be minor and incidental though it cannot be neglected, and its scope and character become fair subjects for discussion.

The term reference work is rather vague. What is reference work, and what are reference books?

In the broadest sense reference work covers all hall or library use; in a narrower sense it is limited to such books as are kept for reference on special shelves, and not allowed in general to be taken from the room where those shelves are located. In still narrower senses it is limited to books properly called works of reference. These, in turn, may be defined more or less closely. We mean sometimes by the term, all books that may be used without reading them through, and sometimes all books that are intended only for such use. Under the former head would come almost all histories, biographies, travels, and scientific works, especially when provided with adequate

indexes; under the latter, dictionaries and cyclopedias, general and technical; gazetteers, atlases, etc. Between these two extremes are a host of works written in such form that they may be read connectedly from beginning to end, but that are not generally so read, such as, for instance, a large treatise on descriptive mineralogy.

From the first of these definitions, it may be seen that the problem of reference work in a circulating library is, first of all, the problem of hall use—the use of books without taking them from the library building. The first question that presents itself here is one of statistics. The author of an article on libraries, which appeared a year or two ago in a literary paper, dismissed circulating libraries altogether with the brief remark that their statistics are very untrustworthy because of uncertainty regarding the items that they include. There is some truth in this, but the uncertainty is still more noteworthy in the statistics that pertain to reference or hall use. Of course the Gordian knot may be cut by omitting to take statistics of hall use at all. This, it has been assumed by some, is the only course possible in an open-shelf library, and librarians have been encouraged to adopt it by undue stress laid upon the importance of home use. This is a reaction from the ancient conservatism that locked up all the books and tried to keep the public away from them. When people were finally allowed to take books home it seems to have been assumed that they could get no good from them in any other way. But many of the units in our reports of home use do not mean use at all. Hundreds of books are taken home and never read. Hall use, on the contrary, must mean use of some kind. Yet a volume of history taken home and never looked at beyond the first page, because the boy who takes it out sees at a glance that it is too old for him, goes down as home use, and raises the class percentage, while the thorough perusal of a cyclopedia article in the reading-room, giving the child dozens of new ideas on some subject that is at the mo-

ment foremost in his mind, and hence impressing itself upon him as no perfunctory reading ever could, is only hall use.

Whatever we do, we surely must try to give statistics of hall use, whether we can do so accurately or not.

But what shall count as hall use? For instance, I know of no library where the use of a current periodical is so counted. But where current periodicals are circulated, each generally counts toward home use; why should not the use of the same periodical in the reading-room count as hall use? In what seems to be common usage, bound volumes of periodicals consulted in the reference department are counted, but single copies are not. I am not at all sure that this is right. Again, where the shelves are open, as they should be in the reference department, whether they are in the circulating department or not, suppose a reader walks along browsing, taking out now one book and now another, using one a few seconds and another a few minutes, how much of this is hall use? It is this sort of thing that has driven open-shelf libraries, where the opportunity for it is increased a hundred-fold, to the reckless course of leaving hall use altogether unrecorded. A conservative and unobjectionable plan is to instruct the assistant in charge to count no book usually unless the user sits down at a table with it, and in an open-shelf library, if the book is brought in from the circulating department the user should be asked whether he intends later to take it home, so that the same book may not be recorded twice, once as hall use, and again in the circulation. Of course the result will depend largely on the judgment of the custodian, but in any case it is apt to be too small rather than too large. The obviously proper course in the matter is to record as much as practicable and then tell the exact truth about it. Single periodicals, if recorded, should be given separately, and so should books from the circulating department and books from the reference shelves proper. This is the only way to answer objections

about untrustworthy statistics. No critic can say that the record is worth nothing to him because he does not know whether or not, for instance, single periodicals have been included, if the use of single periodicals is given separately.

Hall use sometimes becomes so extensive that it may be found necessary to restrict it. During hard times, when the number of the unemployed is very great, the hall use of fiction sometimes increases so greatly at some city libraries, that the reading-rooms are filled from morning till night with novel readers, to the discomfort of those who come there to consult works of reference or to read the newspapers. In such cases it may be necessary to restrict or suspend the hall use of fiction, but this should probably be left to the discretion of the librarian in charge, without making any set rule on the subject. With unlimited reading space such restriction, of course, would not be necessary at all.

The inverse problem—the restriction of circulation from the reference department—must next be considered. In a large library, where the two departments are entirely separate, it need not be regarded, but in a smaller library it may come up frequently. There are many books whose place is properly in the reference department, while there is considerable demand for their use at home. Such are the small and more easily handled reference books, and also, occasionally, historical and other works that have been placed on the reference shelves. Of course the simplest plan is that of duplication, but in a small library this is often out of the question, especially as the books about which we are speaking may be very little in demand. There are then two plans that may be followed: First, all books for which there is any demand for home use may be placed in the circulating department. The objection to this is, of course, that it limits their reference use, for as they do not appear on the reference shelves they are not thought of as available for reference purposes. Or, all such books may be

placed on the reference shelves and circulated therefrom. The objection to this, apart from added difficulty of access, is that if a book is to be found on the shelves only occasionally, the reference library will lose, or at any rate seem to the public to lose, that immediate readiness for use that is its chief reason for existence. These objections cannot be done away with entirely, but they may be minimized by a judicious combination of the two plans. Thus it will be seen that the question to be considered is practically the one mentioned at the outset, namely, What works properly find place in the reference department of a circulating library?

The manner in which the librarian of the small branch or circulating library should decide this question should be, I think, somewhat as follows:

- 1 Find out what works should go on the reference shelves independently of all side issues; that is, for instance, not taking into account their availability for circulation.

- 2 Find which of these are in demand for home use.

- 3 Duplicate as many of these as possible.

- 4 Divide all that cannot be duplicated between the reference and circulating departments.

It will be seen that decision on each one of these points requires the judgment of the librarian, and must be adapted to the special conditions of his library.

No hard and fast rules can be laid down; but in general the first question regarding the works that would naturally find a place on the reference shelves should be answered along the lines already laid down. These shelves should contain:

- 1 Books whose contents is specially arranged for reference, and could not be read from beginning to end.

- 2 Books rarely read from beginning to end, such as long histories.

- 3 Books of unwieldy size or special value.

The second question can of course be answered from the records. The third

depends, as has been said, largely on finance; where there can be complete duplication the fourth problem vanishes. But complete duplication of all books in home demand is generally not possible, nor is it always desirable. An enthusiastic student will sometimes ask to take home Webster's dictionary or a volume of the Britannica, but in such a case evidently neither duplication nor circulation from the reference shelves would be desirable. There are a few works that the public has a right to see at any moment, and these include, at the least, the large dictionaries, cyclopedias, and atlases. The smaller ones, of course, may and should be circulated, but these should always be duplicated. Further than this, local conditions must determine and the librarian must decide whether a sudden demand for home use is not something entirely abnormal, and exactly how great a demand will justify the removal of a book to the circulating department.

But if the library is primarily a circulating library, and the reference department is merely an adjunct, in all cases of doubt the book should go to the circulating department.

Taking equal rank with the problems already mentioned is the problem of the custodian. Any reference department loses half its value if it is not in charge of a person competent to aid those who wish to use it. It is not enough that he or she should possess sufficient strength and dignity to preserve order, and sufficient intelligence to keep such administrative red-tape as may be necessary from becoming snarled. He should be a walking guide-book to such works as are under his charge. Nor is this too much to ask. I mean by this simply that he should be able to answer such questions as:

Which cyclopedia has the best article on shipbuilding?

Where do I look to get the population of Budapest?

Where can I find a short article on fishes?

But even this is a counsel of perfection. Most small libraries, especially

when they feel that their first duty is to the circulating department, cannot afford an adequate custodian for their reference books, but in any case it should be his task to familiarize himself with the contents of the books under his charge as soon as possible, so that the seeker after a fact in elementary mechanics may not be sent to the Brannica, nor he who desires the area of Turkestan to Adeline's art dictionary. He or she should also, unless there is a separate children's department, be able to aid school children in their work and to gain their confidence. In libraries so small that they can afford but a single librarian, that librarian must evidently possess all these qualifications in addition to the others befitting the position. In other words, as we all know, the single librarian of a small library must be a compendium of all wisdom and all the virtues, and the fact that so many persons are filling such positions acceptably certainly speaks well for the profession.

Cost of Cataloging

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

The following figures may be of interest to your readers. I do not think of anything omitted in the calculation—anything that belongs to the simple act of cataloging. Very truly,

E. S. WILLCOX, Lib'n.

COST OF CATALOGING IN THE PEORIA (ILL.) PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Year 1899-1900 we cataloged 4400v.	
Cataloger's salary, the whole year, \$660.	
The cataloging took two-thirds of her time, \$440.	
Therefore the cataloger's work cost on each volume10
Catalog cards cost \$12 for 10,000, or averaging 4 to a book0048
Book slips, 5000 cost \$7, or each002
Book pockets, 5000 cost \$7, or each0014
Assistant, pasting in pockets, rubber stamping, etc., 50 books a day at \$1 a day salary02
Total1282c.
Or, including paste, ink, and waste, say 13c. a volume.	

How does this compare with what cataloging costs in other libraries?

Show Windows in a Library

Ella A. Hamilton, librarian, Whitewater, Wis.

The library was first located in a long and somewhat narrow room, but which had two large front windows with broad bases, such as are found in any store, thus giving us space and opportunity to display our wares. The city had never before had a free library open to the public, so that we felt we must make known to that same public what we had and what we could do for them. A committee of ladies was appointed from the woman's club to assist the librarian, and very faithfully they did their work. We had the birthday bulletins from the commission giving us suggestions along this line, and then the daily papers were full of interesting matter which could well be utilized in this work. I cannot, of course, tell you of all our attempts to draw the people to us and to make an attractive place of our library, but of only a few. I tried always to keep in mind that we should never make an exhibit simply for the sake of the exhibit and to show a collection of pictures, but that these were simply to call to the attention of the people what we had that was really good, and to induce them to take out good books and read good literature.

Our Dickens window was a very pretty one. Across the back of the window we had stretched a light frame covered with dark green ingrain paper, and upon this were fastened pictures illustrating his different books, quotations from his works copied on gray bristol board by some of our high school boys, who did beautiful pen work. At the side were pictures of Dickens himself at different periods of his life, with the date of his birth and death, while on the base of the window were not only his works, but biographies of him and notes of magazine articles that we had about him.

Not long after we had a Longfellow window, and you can imagine how attractive that might be made. We had the Indian pictures grouped about quotations from Hiawatha, Puritan pictures

about the selections from Miles Standish, that page from the Ladies' home journal of a year or two ago, the Hanging of the crane, and many pictures of Longfellow himself with his books, the collection of poetry and song, and biographical sketches.

In the other window at one time we had pictures of Manila and our brave boys who were there, of which at that time it was possible to get so many, with such books as Yesterday in the Philippines, America in the East, and books of travel in the East. At another time we had pictures of South Africa, with books that touched on that country. In February came a series of birthdays which could have similar decorations—our national colors—for first came McKinley, afterward Lincoln, and last Washington. A gentleman in town loaned us a beautiful flag, which was draped high at the back of the window. Bunting and smaller flags were used at the sides; then I had only to change my pictures, books, and quotations for the three men.

At Thanksgiving our window was decorated with fruits, nuts, and vegetables loaned for the occasion, and one large and beautiful box of choice fruits was afterward sold for our book fund. I had out also lists of all our Thanksgiving material where they could be examined by all. At Christmas time both windows were used, one for a large collection of Madonnas and the other for pictures of Christmas customs and a little Christmas-tree partly decorated by the children of one of the grades. Here again our Christmas material and quotations were made prominent.

In the spring we moved from this place to a room prepared for us in the new City hall, nicely furnished, with good light, but lacking the low windows of which I had made so much use previously. But other means were easily used to carry on our work, and on Decoration day a large piece of furniture, for which we had no other use, was draped with white and the national colors, and covered with pictures of the great leaders of the civil war on both sides,

and appropriate quotations. This was high enough so that one side facing the window could be seen from the street, while the other opened to the room. Below this was a table with our collection of books on the civil war.

At another time this same piece of furniture, covered with green burlap, was decorated with pictures of Queen Victoria, the royal family, English scenery and buildings, many of which were sent in without solicitation by people who had seen and admired the work of the year, while such books as the Private life of the queen, Success of England, and Girls' book of famous queens, were put on exhibition. Arbor day was bright with pictures of birds and flowers, and Wisconsin day had our own Wisconsin views, with the writings of our Wisconsin authors made prominent.

But, some of you will say, there must have been a great deal of work to all this. Did it pay? I think it did, and I will give you just a few incidents on which I have based this conclusion. I said at the beginning that our library was new, and that we wished to draw people to us. Our attractive windows did help to do this. The children as they came from school gathered about them; the older people as they passed to their work or pleasure stopped to look and then came in; the local papers spoke of the attractive windows the library was showing, and not only were the faithful women who were helping to do this work busy in getting material, but others seeing what was being done sent in pictures that they thought might be of use, and asked us to accept them. Not only, however, did people come and look, but they took the books we advertised. Copies of Dickens were carried away instead of the lighter works of more modern authors; the books on the East were in constant demand, and here I was specially glad to see that the boys who came to the library were going away with these books of travel. Some of the members of the American statesmen series who had hitherto stayed quite closely at home began to visit, and I was kept busy about Thanksgiv-

ing time in finding for the children and young people the material which was advertised on the bulletins.

The reverence shown by many people as, entering the library, they came face to face with England's great queen, whom we must all reverence, was hardly less pleasing than was the fact that all our books about her and the other great queens were soon gone, and there was nothing left to advertise.

It seemed to me that all this helped very much with the children, and I was specially pleased at a little thing that occurred one day at school. I had gone into the second grade, whose teacher had used the library a great deal for her children. She said to them, after the lesson was finished to which I had listened: Now, children, I want you to recite for Miss Hamilton one of our poems. You all know her; she sends us the nice books we have to read. Their eyes sparkled, and one little fellow shouted out: Oh, yes, we know her, and we took her all the lanterns for her Christmas-tree (referring to the decorations they had furnished to our Christmas window). I was glad, indeed, that they felt that they had a part in that library and had done something for it. Later in the spring a little child from very adverse surroundings and who had no mother, but who had been a frequent visitor at the library, came one day with her arms full of fragrant lilacs "to make the library pretty." The tears came as I took the blossoms and arranged them in conspicuous places, and I could but hope that some chord had been touched in that little life which should make sweet music for many coming years.

One other little incident will show how valuable the written quotations may be. A little boy and his mother stood outside the Washington window one day, and the child read over carefully the saying of that great man which was written there. Did Washington say that, mother? he asked. Yes, she said, don't you see that the window is all about him today? He looked over the pictures carefully, read the quotation again, and then remarked: Well,

mother, I think that was a grand thing for Washington or any man to say. Do you wonder that when the incident was told me, I could but hope that that child had gained a thought which would be of use to him all through his life.

Of course I know that many passed our windows or entered our rooms without once seeing these pictures and books; some looked, but gained nothing of real good from what they saw. When the sower of whom the great Teacher told went forth to sow, some fell by the wayside and among thorns and on stony ground, but some did fall on good ground and brought forth fruit; and so I believe that in this work, while the many may pass by unobserving, the few at least will gain an interest in the library, in good books and literature, in the seed thoughts of truth which great souls have given us, which shall make their own lives nobler and sweeter, and so all other lives with which they may come in contact.

Children's Vacation Reading

After the schools close for the summer vacation there is a noticeable decrease in the number of juvenile visitors to the library, due in part to absence from the city or need of rest, but attributable in many cases to a general indefiniteness of purpose in holiday time. The experiment of vacation reading has been the outgrowth of the ideas that "all play and no work" is a condition to be avoided, and that an attempt should be made to hold the interest of some of these young people during this period.

The plan has been a simple one. About 75 books were selected with plenty of duplicates, including stories, history, travel, natural history, a little astronomy, and something about our government. From these, two lists were made, one for children from 6 to 10 years old, the other for those from 10 to 14, but almost immediately this division proved impracticable, and was abolished. A small label on the back of each book, and "vacation reader"

stamped upon the book-plate, book card, and borrower's card, prevented possibility of mistake or confusion. An outline of the scheme was published in the daily papers, and a member was enrolled by writing his own name in a book kept for that purpose, and promising to read eight books of the list within as many weeks.

No restrictions were made as to other reading; each book belonging to the list was entered under the reader's name when he returned it, so that if he elected to take something else occasionally, he merely deferred the completion of his "vacation reading." As no inducement to membership was offered aside from the good in the books themselves, there was no specially enthusiastic rush of would-be readers; but the work has been accomplished by a class of 61, of an average age of 11. Some found it an easy task, delightful, and quickly finished; to more it has been real work, requiring considerable persistent effort, but work that has brought enjoyment with it.

In registering books returned there has been opportunity for short conversations about them, and a better acquaintance with the children has been gained which will be useful in the work of the coming year. An interest has been aroused among parents, some of whom have come with their children to discuss the plan, and to look over the juvenile books, in a few instances to visit the library for the first time. The attitude of some, probably of many parents toward any undertaking of the kind, might be summed up in the answers of two girls to the query, Does your mother wish you to join the class? The first: Oh, yes! she says she thinks the library has got ideas. The second: She won't care; she doesn't know what I read.

After the work was well in hand, a little book of eight pages in gray and red was prepared as a certificate. The title-page has a space for the reader's name, and in the list on the two following pages the books read are marked with a star. On the back of the title-

page is a short quotation from Crabbe, and four blank pages headed, Books read during the winter of 1900-1901, complete the book. On these blank pages all who are willing to do so will be encouraged to make lists of what they read, and to bring them to the library. Success in obtaining such lists would solve, partially, the problem of closer supervision of children's reading.

City library, E. N. LANE.
Springfield, Mass.

Trade Catalogs as Library Books

Many librarians have yet to learn, how valuable an addition can be made to their collections by judicious requests from the corporations and firms which publish illustrated catalogs, manuals, and other books issued with a commercial purpose, but yet containing information of great practical value for present and future reference. The kind of book that most people throw away as not worth preservation on their shelves, is a desirable book to have here and there in fireproof libraries, where posterity can study the details of our present industrial and commercial system. More than that, these catalogs have an immediate interest to many persons, who are glad to consult them after they once learn of their existence and practical usefulness. Many great ship builders, tool factories, bicycle, carriage, piano, and hundreds of other factories, issue catalogs that are well worth preserving. The publishers cannot afford to send these out except to their large patrons, yet very few of them would hesitate to place a copy in a library of any importance, because they would recognize the added advantage of having it cataloged and permanently preserved. The plan is one therefore that benefits library, public, and publisher alike, and if properly presented will meet with hearty cooperation.

MELVIL DEWEY.

New York State library.

Perfumed oil, such as oil of olives, sprinkled on library shelves, will prevent mold on books.

Report on Library Training

CLEVELAND, Nov. 8, 1900.

Editor of PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

I notice on looking over the report of the committee on library training of the Ohio Library association for the year past, that an omission occurred which was due to the fact that an incomplete copy of the report was sent. It occurs before the last paragraph in the first column of page 360 of the proceedings in PUBLIC LIBRARIES. I will be glad if you are able to find space for it in your next issue, as it is an attempt by the committee to define the various methods of library education, and to dispel the illusion that the summer school offers adequate training. The omission was as follows, and the paragraph which it should have preceded was intended to form a part of the definition which it gives:

In suggesting that the association may profitably consider what may be done to promote this tendency and meet this need, your committee ventures to present an opinion as to the value and relation of special training, which will serve at least to give opportunity for the expression of other opinions on the same subject, and will give on behalf of the committee an answer to frequent questions.

While it is evident from the examples we have in libraries throughout the country, that high excellence and efficiency is attainable without special training, and while your committee believes also that no course in a library school is sufficient to qualify for efficient service, unless preceded or followed by actual experience, it nevertheless recognizes in the regular library school the most expeditious, thorough, and effective preparation for library service, and recommends to those who are looking forward to library work a course in one of the regular schools, if possible.

In the opinion of the committee the summer school is an entirely inadequate preparation, its important function being to aid those already in

library work to reach greater efficiency. It is clearly impossible to bring within the comprehension of a beginner, while treating with any degree of thoroughness, the various important and complex subjects which must be included. To the beginner the whole subject-matter of the instruction is new, the terms are unknown, and the brevity of the course forbids repetition or review. On the other hand the library assistant comes with some knowledge of the nomenclature, some idea of the problems, and more or less practice in the work to be done, and may get much help from even the few weeks of a summer course.

As the practice, to which much the larger share of the time is devoted, is an essential part of the course of both the regular and summer schools, it seems clear that no effective instruction can be given by lectures alone without practice work. The function of the lecture is rather to discuss library problems, to interest the public in libraries, to inspire library workers to greater zeal, and, in relation to library training, to interest in it and emphasize its value, to outline the field to be covered and the course to be pursued, and in these ways the lectures may be of great value.

The report was signed by Miss E. C. Doren, of the Dayton public library, and myself. M. L. Crowell, trustee of the Toledo public library, the third member of the committee, was not present and had no opportunity of examining the report, though I believe he would be heartily in accord with it.

Yours very truly, WM. H. BRETT.

Among the printed regulations of public libraries is usually to be found one requiring that the borrower's card and the borrowed volume shall be presented at the librarian's desk whenever a renewal of the loan is sought. Probably some such rule as this has been in universal use. Samuel S. Green, the Worcester, Mass., librarian, is among the first to abandon it. He has recently introduced the practice of permitting renewal of loans by telephone.

Traveling Libraries for Country Schools in the South

Through the kindness of Mr Carnegie, and the indefatigable efforts of Mrs E. B. Heard of Georgia, 100 school libraries have been added to the Seaboard air line Traveling library system, for circulation among the county schools of the states along the route of the railroad. The splendid work which has been fostered by the railroad interested, along all lines of improvement, educational, industrial, and philanthropic, that help the country through which it passes to a higher plane of culture and intelligence, deserves the hearty commendation and congratulation of everyone who is interested in the uplifting of moral standards anywhere. It is a great work, accomplishing great results, and deserves the highest praise.

At a recent convention held at Jacksonville, Fla., and made up of those along the route interested in the various phases of the work, glowing reports from superintendents of public instruction and commissioners from the different states and counties along the route of the Seaboard air line were given on the general improvements made in their different sections before the session closed.

The subject of traveling libraries was, perhaps, the most important one that came before the meeting, and the report of Mrs Eugene B. Heard of Rose Hill, Middleton, Ga., describes the work of this department fully. In addition to the statistics and other record matters Mrs Heard said:

Our accession number is now 2500, and the movement has received such hearty support from various givers that we will greatly enlarge our system, by adding to it a number of school libraries for the rural schools on our lines. Henceforth school libraries are offered as prizes to schools that make noteworthy progress in the outward and inward adornment of the schoolhouse. The school in the country is a part of the community more than it is in the city. We must rely upon its instruc-

tions to make farm life more attractive, as well as more profitable.

The reports sent in from time to time from our local librarians show a high appreciation of the books, and that there is an eager desire for them. The readers in most farming districts average a book for every two weeks. When one remembers that the circulation of the 60 books is often among only a few families, living from one-half to ten miles apart, and living remote from libraries and bookstores, you can realize that it means more to them than does the city library in the to its patrons.

Our efforts have been all along to supply isolated communities with strong, healthful, popular books, such as may be found in the best public libraries. I wish we could read you some of the letters of appreciation that have come to us from our patrons. The penmanship is not always of the late vertical style, and the spelling is sometimes phonetic, but those letters have given the superintendent more inspiration than a \$5000 salary would have done. I do not believe that Mr Carnegie has ever bestowed his bounty more widely, or in a way where he will so quickly realize the good he desires his gifts to accomplish, than when he put in motion the Andrew Carnegie system of free traveling school libraries.

Pardon the personal allusion. To me this has been and will continue to be a work of love. I am grateful for the opportunity to labor in this capacity for my countrymen and countrywomen. To the accomplishment of this work in so far as it is committed to me, I pledge every energy of my mind and consecrate every impulse of my heart. If, in the years to come, I can look over this stretch of Southland, from Portsmouth on the eastern shore to Tampa on the inland sea, and behold purer homes and stronger men and happier women and brighter children, and if the voice of an approving conscience shall tell me that in the least I helped to do this, it will be to me sweeter music than the harvest song to the expectant reaper.

Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	-	-	-	-	-	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	-	-	-	-	-	Editor
Subscription	-	-	-	-	-	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	-	-	-	-	-	\$4 a year
Single number	-	-	-	-	-	20 cents

PUBLIC LIBRARIES does not appear in August or September, and 10 numbers constitute a volume.

It is a delight to learn from the prospectus of the Atlantic monthly for 1901, that the strong, clear, elevated tone of this very distinctively literary magazine shows no sign of abatement. It has stood for so many years as the exponent of all that is best in American life and letters in a calm, well-balanced strength, and the names of so many of the greatest minds of our history are interwoven in its career, that it seems a part of that very history. No library list is complete without the Atlantic monthly.

ONE of the best things that have come under our notice recently is the pamphlet received from Henry Guppy, Esq., librarian of the John Rylands library, Manchester, England, on French fiction and French juvenile literature for the public library. It seems to be the sanest presentation of the subject of French fiction which we remember to have seen, and librarian and layman alike would be benefited by reading it. A list of French novels suitable for public libraries for adult readers, and also one graded, for young people from six years up, together with albums and magazines, are given at the close of the address. Prices and publishers are given, and altogether a very valuable monograph is presented.

THE Macmillan Co. are issuing notices of new books on cards. The idea is a good one, and might well be carried farther by the publishers. It would be worth far more than the cost of the undertaking if publishing houses would employ expert catalogers, who should prepare all the entries necessary for the new books as they come from the press. These could be run off on perforated

sheets and inclosed in the books, ready to be separated and pasted on catalog cards when the books reach the libraries.

The cards sent out by the Macmillan Co. are not standard size, and are not punched, thereby making their filing a difficult thing. The quality of the cards is not good, but as they cannot be put in the permanent records, perhaps the quality of card does not so much matter.

AGAIN it is to be deplored that the scrambles for possession of various state libraries, solely on political grounds, have commenced. The state libraries of Delaware, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Kansas are already the objects of political ambition from a number of candidates, for no one of whom fitness is urged, only political service rendered or personal connections urged.

It is most deplorable that when the beneficent influence of the library spirit in so many hamlets, villages, towns, and cities, by means of books, is making life brighter and happier for countless thousands, that the state libraries, which should be the head and front of this movement, are lagging behind, hindering instead of helping, because they are the shuttlecocks which are not allowed to stay long enough in control of one librarian to get within sound of the music of progress which is inspiring so many libraries in the upward march of today.

Librarians who appreciate what the state library of their respective states might become in the library field, owe it to the craft to interest themselves, as far as possible, in discouraging the use of the state library as a political plum to be used in paying personal favors or in building up political prestige.

FROM a wide field of observation and considerable experience we feel justified in claiming for the library associations in the various states a very large share in the widespread development of public libraries, and the great strides in advancement in spirit, methods, and influence in their administration. Particularly is this true in the middle west.

The writer has attended successive meetings for several years in the same states, and it is most gratifying as well as wonderful to watch the development in individual cases. The advancement made would not have seemed possible to a casual observer, as it certainly would not to the timid person most involved, several years ago. But now it is a real pleasure to see the work, to watch the spirit, and hear the ideas of those who have been developed by the work of the state associations. Librarians who do not take an interest in their state associations lose one of the finest and best elements in the work, and one for which nothing else can be substituted.

A RATHER unique bit of financiering, and what seems to be an entirely unjust arrangement, is that which fell to the lot of the Boston public library, as shown in the Forty-eighth annual report. After extending its work as far as it could within its current income, the library found its appropriation cut about \$32,000. This in addition to a ruling which required that all money received from rentals, fines, and sales of its publications should be turned into the general income account of the city. The injustice of this last is manifest when it is known that the expense of collecting fines for the misuse of books amounts to \$1500 or more, and falls upon the general appropriation, while the fines, amounting to \$5000 or more, are paid into the city treasury. The expense of preparing and printing catalogs, bulletins, and other publications fall upon the appropriation for the library, while all receipts from their sales are without deduction paid into the city treasury. As the trustees insist, in both these cases, only the net receipts after deducting expenses should be paid into the city treasury. It is the worst kind of false economy to cripple the library officials in their good work, and if a large, free liberality is needed in any direction it is surely here. One of the results of this false economy is that a large number of books are withdrawn from circulation because they are in need of

rebinding, while it is impossible for the trustees to supply from their current income the money required for this purpose.

As will be seen by reference to another page, the preliminary arrangements for the next meeting of the A. L. A., including time and place, have been arranged. It rests now in a large measure with the rank and file of the members to make the meeting a memorable one. It is to be expected that the people in charge will arrange for an interesting and helpful program. It rests with the people asked to go upon this program to make a definite decision in regard to it and then carry out their promises. If the person so invited has a message to carry, he should accept the opportunity to present it in good faith and carry out his part of the obligation, in no wise being the cause of a gap in the proceedings.

It is to be hoped that librarians of the middle and farther west will keep up the good reputation which they have achieved in the past few years in the number of those present and the good work done at these gatherings. No one of moment longer recognizes excellence in locality alone, and the tremendous strides made in the past decade in library matters in the middle west gives a strong incentive to emulation to all localities.

The librarian who is aware of the pleasure and profit of these meetings, and who can afford it, always attends, no matter where the meeting is, and always comes away satisfied in proportion to the spirit he carries.

But there are many who are capable of appreciating the advantages of the meetings who cannot attend when the distance to be covered is great, and the middle west, on account of the great number of small libraries, has a large number of such. To them, therefore, will this year's meeting be a special occasion, and such librarians who have never attended a genuine A. L. A. meeting are specially urged to go to Waukesha, Wis., next July.

American Library Association

Twenty-third general meeting

To be held in Waukesha, Wis., probably July 3-10

First announcement

The executive board of the A. L. A. met November 2 at the Broadway Central hotel, New York city. The entire board was present except Mr Thwaites, namely, Messrs. Carr, Jones, Richardson, Faxon, Mrs Fairchild and Miss Haines.

The business transacted was:

The program committee referred the matter of place of next meeting to the board, and Winona, Ind., and Waukesha, Wis., were fully considered. Owing to the priority of the Wisconsin invitation, and in view of other considerations, it was finally decided to hold the 1901 conference at Waukesha, Wis., beginning July 3, or as near that date as may seem advisable to the program committee.

The finance committee submitted a budget of expenses for 1901, in accordance with the new constitution. The budget was accepted, and it was voted to make appropriations within the amounts therein specified, on the basis of an estimated income of \$1500.

It was voted, on motion of the recorder, that in the preparation of the 1901 proceedings, verbatim reports of section, round table, and similar sessions be not given, and that verbatim reports be confined to the record of the general sessions.

The Trustees' section was continued.

The State library section officers were appointed: W. E. Henry, chairman; A. H. Chase, secretary.

The Catalog section officers were appointed: A. H. Hopkins, chairman; J. C. M. Hanson, secretary.

A round table session for considering the work of State library associations was provided for in program.

A session for considering the work of the State library commission was provided for.

Nina E. Browne was reappointed registrar.

It was voted to establish a section for library work with children, provided

such should be acceptable to the officers of the Club of children's librarians.

It was voted that the secretary prepare a handbook for 1901, and also a list of members attending the 1901 meeting for use at that meeting.

Committees appointed—On International catalog of scientific literature: J. S. Billings, C. W. Andrews, Cyrus Adler—continued.

On Library training: J. C. Dana, W. E. Foster, W. H. Brett, Eliza G. Browning, Electra C. Doren—reorganized.

On International coöperation: E. C. Richardson, R. R. Bowker, S. H. Rauck, Mary W. Plummer, Cyrus Adler. Committee on Collection of book statistics previously appointed merged in above.

Travel committee: F. P. Hill, R. P. Hayes, with power to add to number.

Gifts and bequests: F. W. Ashley, reporter.

It was recommended that the attention of the Publishing section be directed to the recommendation made at Montreal regarding the University of Illinois Bibliographical theses. It was voted that the president be empowered to appoint representatives of the A. L. A. for the several state and local associations in accordance with the previous vote of the board.

F. W. FAXON, Sec'y,

108 Glenway St., Dorchester, Mass.

Free Library vs. Fees.

This question continually comes up in individual cases, though long ago settled to the satisfaction of every careful student of the problem. The public library in its essence must be free as much as the highway or the college well. A fee, however slight, defeats its chief usefulness. Experience is uniform in showing this result. We have some cases that puzzle the trustees; e.g., a library not supported by its taxes realizes its possible increased usefulness, makes itself free and tries to get needed support from voluntary subscriptions. This works for a short time only. People tire of giving, and there is trouble ahead if this system is adopted. We

must recognize the library clearly as on the same plane with the public school. The best thinkers no longer consider it optional, but count the support of the public library as a necessity as much as a school or road tax. In Illinois there is a library which has done admirable work just now facing this problem. Its territory is neither city, town, or village, but simply school district no. 1, and the state law allows no tax levy by school districts. Voluntary subscriptions no longer meet expenses, and the trustees are considering the very undesirable alternative of charging a \$2 or \$3 fee to all users. If they study the question they will know that the fee will destroy much of the value of the library. There are two solutions, and I should advise that both be tried. 1) Have the next legislature alter the law so that a school district may tax itself for a public library. To such a law there ought to be no opposition, and if skillfully managed it probably could readily be passed. It would not be mandatory, but only permissive, so that a district which wished to support a library might lawfully do so.

The other plan is to canvass the other districts of the township, stimulate interests, secure the necessary petitions and make the library a township instead of a district library. This would make its facilities open to the whole town, which in turn would furnish the needed funds for its support, and the amount of the tax to the average taxpayer would be so trifling that if he faced it in dollars and cents he would be ashamed to oppose any objection.

The old proprietary academy has largely disappeared before the much better tax-supported high school. The corresponding library is going the same course because the public has learned the much better way. No community ought to rest content till it is giving from the public treasury enough funds to supplement the gifts of individuals and any permanent endowments, so that the public library receives a creditable support.

MELVIL DEWEY.

A Pleasant Library Week

The Lake Placid meeting of the New York Library association, held at the Lake Placid club, September 26, 27, and 28, was by far the most successful in its history whether estimated by numbers present, enthusiasm, inspiration, practical results, or social features. Previous meetings have not exceeded 20 delegates outside those from the immediate vicinity. At Placid there were 100. For the first time the railroad granted a half fare, and promises to do this each year between September 15 and November 1. Besides the strong membership attendance, prominent library workers were present from Canada, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. The president and secretary of the A. L. A. represented the parent association. Mr Gould and Mr Iles of Montreal, Mr Robertson of Winnipeg, Mary L. Titcomb, secretary of the Vermont Library association, Prof. Geo. T. Little of Bowdoin College, Miss H. P. James of Wilkes-Barre, and F. P. Hill of Newark, were among the well-known visitors.

The days were full of solid work and good fellowship. The first session early Wednesday morning set a standard so high that it was feared it could not be maintained, but the verdict seemed unanimous that the meetings had been the most practically helpful of any yet held. A summary is to be printed by the New York state library, and will be sent free to all applicants. Wednesday afternoon in perfect weather was given to the golf links, for which the Placid club is famous. Many members had never touched a club, but in the spirit of the extemporized contest nearly everyone tried both putting and driving in many cases, much to the amusement of the spectators. An afternoon tea served by the ladies of the club in the golf library rounded out a beautiful afternoon. After tea the whole party enjoyed the novelty of a club cathedral fire in the heart of the forest, where several wagon-loads of light fuel piled

high on a stone pier were set ablaze, making each tree trunk stand out in the firelight like the column of a cathedral. A strong evening session in the lake library was followed by two lake fires similar to that in the forest, but built on stone piers rising from the water. These were watched from the balconies and from boats, and as the fires died down the builder of the famous Adirondack lodge, Henry Van Hohvenberg, told an original and characteristic local story in the firelight.

Thursday was a great day for library work, morning, afternoon, and evening, with enthusiasm unabated, and the lake library was full of the modern library spirit. After adjournment the lights were turned out and nearly all remained clustered round the big open fire for some Adirondack stories, the masterpiece being Dr Canfield's catamount. Looking through the glass walls of the pavilion we could see half a mile away on the opposite shore the very spot where the adventure occurred 37 years before. The house was still standing and Dr Canfield had renewed old memories by calling on Mrs Nash only a few hours before. The story itself was inimitable; so good that it would be a literary crime to report it. If he could be induced to tell it in New York he could crowd any auditorium.

Then came the perfect day of the week, early breakfast, four horse drags and carriages, and a steamer excursion round peerless Placid, acknowledged queen of more than 1000 Adirondack lakes, given with the compliments of Capt. Stevens of the Doris. Carriages again at eleven, and 10 miles through brilliant autumn foliage to Adirondack lodge, long famous as "the heart of the mountains." A bountiful lunch served by the club was followed by climbs and strolls, rousing boundless enthusiasm and admiration for this choicest corner of the great forest, and then again the 10 miles home. When we came out from supper we were in Venice. More than 1000 lanterns changed the club balconies and the lake houses into Fairyland. The club fleet, decorated with

Chinese and Japanese lanterns, for an hour made Mirror lake transcendently beautiful. At frequent intervals colored fire at different points in the forest and on the shores added weird lights, and finally, on the signal of a great bomb, six huge piles of fuel burst into flame from the surface of the lake and changed night into day. The boats clustered together like a flock of birds, and the songs of their occupants were in keeping with the spirit of the night. Then once more the lights were turned out in the big library, and round the blazing logs we had more Adirondack stories; and later than club traditions justified, a happy company of librarians broke up with the verdict that an ideal plan and an ideal place seemed to have been chosen for this tenth anniversary of the founding of the N. Y. L. A.

The most significant action of the week was the discussion of the future of the association. Pres. Canfield had studied the problem for a year, and his report, with the story of previous experiences, so convinced all that the vote was unanimous to hold the annual meeting hereafter at the same place, instead of following the peripatetic system commonly in vogue. He showed by experience that the knowledge of trains, hotels and surroundings tended to increase attendance and comfort, and that more would be done for librarianship by selecting a good place and going back to it regularly. The needs of special localities are to be met by district meetings, under the auspices of the state association, for those who could rarely attend the annual meeting. At these meetings officers and committees and speakers will go from the N. Y. L. A., but there will hereafter be only one general meeting a year at which all are expected to be present. It was agreed, in justice to the New York city library club, that it should have full control of the winter meeting held as a joint meeting of the club and the N. Y. L. A. Then came the claims of the capital, to which Mr Dewey issued a cordial invitation, if that were chosen as the permanent meeting place. Utica, Niagara

Falls, and other points had strong claims. In reply to the president's question the trustees of the Lake Placid club said they had voted to extend to the librarians all the privileges enjoyed by regular members of the club after September 15 each year, without the payment of the \$10 fee exacted from all members and associates, and also put at their disposal without charge the club fleet of 100 small boats, the three bowling alleys, golf links, the dozen or more courts, and other facilities for amusement. Rooms would be one-half regular rates to all members and friends in attendance. As was predicted early in the week the vote was unanimous in favor of making the Lake Placid club the permanent place of meeting, just as was the case in establishing the Lake Placid conference on home economics, which meets at the club the first week of each July. No other meetings of any kind have ever been allowed on the club grounds, for it is a company of families living on a large estate and not a hotel, no guests being admitted unless introduced by two members.

After this decision came a further development by equally unanimous vote. The delegates from other states expressed the hope that the meeting might be for more than New York alone, and it was decided that while it should be under the N. Y. L. A. auspices it should be established as Library week for the northeastern states and Canada. The Canadian delegates said that no point would be more convenient for them, and that they could bring a goodly delegation under such an arrangement. The New Jersey and Pennsylvania delegates extended a cordial invitation to the New Yorkers to meet with them each spring at Atlantic City, and accepted as cordially the invitation to consider the Lake Placid Library week a permanent and profitable engagement for the last of each September. The plan is to come together on Saturday, live at the club through the entire following week, having one strong session each day, and giving the rest of the day and the evening to outdoor life, mountain climb-

ing, lake and forest excursions, and to those piazza and table conferences of little groups that every wise observer agrees to be more practically valuable than the more formal discussions of the larger meetings. Thus we shall have eight days together, and the sentiment was general that if the plan were known in advance many who could not arrange to be present this year would plan to spend the entire week regularly hereafter. The club trustees also agreed that members of the association might, so far as rooms could be spared without injustice to club members, come earlier and stay later than Library week at the half rate.

The enthusiasm of some of the oldest A. L. A. members for the new plan indicates that as the modern movement starts the new century, Lake Placid Library week will be one of the strongest influences for good.

Abstract of Report on Public Documents at Ohio Library Association Meeting

Considering the amount and value of the material contained in them, public documents do not occupy the place they should in many libraries of the state. In quite a number they are ranked on a par with pamphlets, and like them, the documents question is shelved until time, space, money, and perhaps knowledge and inclination, may be at the disposal of the librarian. However, this is more generally true of conditions a few years ago than it is today. The association is to be congratulated upon the rapidly growing appreciation and use of these sources of information. The public is learning more and more to consult the various government publications for first-hand information on current, economic, and political topics. Such being the case, it has become necessary for the modern library not only to make this matter accessible, but also to bring it to the attention of investigators. Most of the larger libraries are doing this. It is more particularly the smaller ones, with limited space and opportunities, that

are lacking in this respect. We are glad to state that at least one of the latter has recognized the importance of these publications, being about to provide additional space for their shelving and use. This is one step in the right direction. While most libraries cannot now afford to do the same, they can certainly give shelf space to the more important current publications, stowing the volumes out of the way as new ones appear.

In the newer libraries the matter of storing documents has not become pressing, for they have not yet had time to accumulate many. The small older libraries, especially the depositories which have been receiving government publications for years, have the more difficult problem to solve. These depositories receive all the publications distributed by the superintendent of documents, and by law are required to provide proper facilities for their use; failing in this, the privilege is liable to be withdrawn. It is to be doubted whether all depositories of the state are fulfilling the requirements of the law by which they are the beneficiaries of the national government. It would seem to be wise for any depository derelict in this matter to better its treatment of the trust confided to it. This not only as a precautionary measure, but as a duty owing both to the donor and the public.

A NEW edition of Webster's international dictionary has been issued by the G. & C. Merriam Co. of Springfield, Mass. Its special feature is a supplement containing 25,000 additional words which have entered the language since the plates for the 1890 edition were made. Dr W. T. Harris, United States commissioner of education, has superintended the work, and gives a full explanatory preface to the supplement. Men who are specialists in their different lines of art, science, and literature, have contributed to this work, which Dr J. H. Murray of Oxford, England, pronounces the best one-volume dictionary in existence.

Library Meetings

Chicago—The November meeting of the Chicago Library club was held on Thursday evening, November 15, in the library of Lewis institute. The club was favored in having as guest of the evening Mrs Salome Cutler Fairchild, of the New York State library school. Mrs Fairchild delivered an interesting address, which she called A perspective in library movement. We present some of the thoughts which it contained.

Librarians are the missionaries of the book. The library idea, which was the gospel preached by the early enthusiasts, is now springing up everywhere. The library movement was an enthusiasm in the beginning, and the outgrowth of this original enthusiasm is becoming quite universal.

After reference to some of the fads now existing in library work, Mrs Fairchild put forth a plea for a future need—that library science should be put into some available form, as an underlying philosophy on which to base our library work and thought.

One of the present needs of the librarian and library assistant is to read and think more. With the manifold duties now imposed upon them such a thing is almost impossible. Of necessity much superficial reading is done, but quite a different sort is required. Less confinement to clerical duties and more leisure for mental work must be had. A librarian should possess a well-trained mind to begin with, but the college training and mental discipline must be continued. Earnest, thoughtful work is the crying need; growth and advancement are requisite to the librarian that he may bring about better conditions.

The underlying thought in this new library philosophy is in the answer to the question: What is the end and aim of the library? The function of the library is the development and enrichment of life in the entire community, by bringing to all the people the books that belong to them.

In the library world books and the

work with books are sometimes placed first. Would it not be well to spend some time working with people, and learning to know them and their needs? It is important to show people that they want books. A librarian should know his town and its people. He should know all sides of life and all types of people, the important movements in the town and all its conditions, educational, political, religious, social, and economic. A librarian who is not broad enough to meet all kinds of people, and to understand the motives of people, is greatly hampered. Intellectual qualifications are by no means the only qualifications.

But in regard to the book work. A love of books is necessary to successful work, for we cannot help others to love what we do not love ourselves. The selection of books should be made a more serious study. We must find the elements of attractiveness and value in a book and learn its real and best use.

The missionary and philanthropic side of libraries must not be too greatly emphasized. The scholar and the vagrant alike have rights, and all types should be recognized and equally treated; but the scholar and investigator is working not only for himself but for others; he works for the world, and through the leaders may the people be reached.

Education in its usual significance does not mean the development and enrichment of life. Too much stress is laid on the mere intellectual side. But education in the new, broader meaning, will lead to the more perfect development of life as a whole—a symmetrical blending of all of man's best qualities, and in aiding this development of the people a library fulfills its highest function.

At the close of the address the remainder of the evening was given up to an informal social. At ten o'clock the club adjourned to the green room, where delicious refreshments were served.

About 70 people were present, and the Chicago Library club is glad to express through the columns of PUBLIC

LIBRARIES its appreciation of the hospitality of Miss Benedict, librarian, and Mr Carman, director of Lewis institute, and to thank Miss Benedict and her assistants for a most enjoyable evening.

MARGARET E. ZIMMERMAN,
Secretary.

Connecticut—The fall meeting of the Connecticut Library association was held at the Beardsley library at Winsted, Friday, Oct. 26, 1900.

After greetings had been exchanged with the librarian, Miss Carrington and members of her staff, the visitors wandered about the handsome memorial building in which the Beardsley library is housed, admiring many points of interest, and lauding the homelikeness of the setting.

The meeting was called to order by the president, W. L. James, at 10:55. Dr B. F. Kidder extended words of welcome to the C. L. A. to which the president responded, after which the business session was opened by the reading of the reports of the secretary and treasurer, which were approved.

Various items of business being disposed of, the program for the morning was introduced, and Miss Carrington gave a brief outline of the history of the Beardsley library, founded in 1874 by Deacon Elliot Beardsley and his wife, Delia R. Beardsley, and now so appropriately located in the Memorial building, built for that object through the generosity of the late Jennison J. Whiting, and his wife. At the close of her paper Miss Carrington spoke words of praise for the C. L. A., noting her personal experience as a member.

Miss Von Hoevenberg followed with a paper on the A. L. A. conference at Montreal, giving those members not fortunate enough to be present glimpses of both the business and the social side of the conference while Miss Heydrick read the sequel to that meeting in the delightful trip up the Saguenay. Photographs of views in Montreal, Quebec, and places of interest along the St Lawrence and the Saguenay rivers, were passed among the members, while a

scrapbook containing clippings, views, and numerous souvenirs, gathered together, prepared, and kindly loaned by F. W. Faxon, secretary of the A. L. A., was exhibited. Mr James spoke of the work of the A. L. A., particularly of the step forward, taken this summer, in the matter of coöperative cataloging.

In his paper, *The ideal librarian*, W. H. Corbin, of the Norfolk library, emphasized the note of change in all departments of the business world, contrasting the life and influence of the book-worm—the “book-guard” of 200 years ago—with the librarian or “book-guide” of today; also, the methods and the means within the reach of the present day librarian, by which one may introduce literature to the public and the public to literature. Mr Corbin’s closing remarks dealt with the influence of the librarian upon the people of one’s village or town, and of the necessity of making the library not only a home-like place, but of value to each and every member of the community according to his or her capacity.

At one o’clock, the members of the association were invited to partake of luncheon, served by the Ladies’ library association.

At 2:30 the meeting was again called to order, when Miss Hewins, in behalf of the A. L. A., made an able plea for that association, giving many reasons why one should belong to the A. L. A., if possible.

It was moved and seconded that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to serve as a nominating committee for officers to be elected at the next annual meeting.

A discussion, led by Frances B. Russell of Stratford, on the *Treatment of pamphlets*, was the means of bringing out many ideas and suggestions as to the selection, preservation, and cataloging of that article, which is the deep despair of librarians.

Following this came a paper by Charles D. Hine, of the Connecticut public library committee, on *Distinction between reading books for children and reading fit for children*. Mr Hine’s

idea is that during the years that a child is learning to read he is given mere words, in various combinations, without thought, style, or sentiment, to read over and over again; whereas in the same period, if given something of real value, he may not only learn to read, but will be laying the foundations of a taste for good literature—not literature adapted to the minds of children, which is a sort of mince-meat, but the masterpieces of literature intact.

After the discussion following Mr Hine’s paper, W. A. Borden, of the Young men’s institute of New Haven, gave a short talk on the institute’s system of extra books. Of the popular works they buy a few copies, half of which may be reserved as borrowers leave their names for the same, while the other half are never reserved under any conditions whatsoever, but are loaned to those who first ask for such works. If the demand for a certain book be great enough, by arrangements made with a dealer, a half dozen or dozen more copies are placed in the library and loaned at the rate of 10 cents a week; as soon as the demand ceases, the books are sold and the money used, together with the rental money, to discharge the bill at the dealers.

Mr James then named the following as members of the nominating committee: W. K. Stetson, Mrs Agnes Hills, Mrs F. W. Robinson.

After a vote of thanks tendered Miss Carrington and the members of the Ladies’ library association, the meeting adjourned. ANNA HADLEY, Sec’y.

Evanston, Ill.—Library day was observed at the public library November 23. The library room was beautifully decorated with suggestive bulletins, beautiful palms and plants, and every visitor during the day was cordially received and reminded that this was a special occasion. At night a public meeting was held in School hall to arouse sentiment for the purchase of a site for the new library offered by Charles Gray. The accomplishment of this purpose deserves more interest than it receives.

Indiana Library Association Meeting

The ninth annual meeting of the Indiana Library association was held at Indianapolis October 26-27.

The first session was opened with an address by the president, Helen Tracy Guild of the University of Indiana library. After extending a hearty welcome to all present, Miss Guild said: I suppose to every member there is one part of the program that is more interesting than any other, and to which he or she looks forward with much interest. It is a good thing for us all to learn the best ways of doing all sorts of things around a library, even if we cannot apply these methods. There is no reason why, after learning them, we should hold our hands and sigh for money, because we can do our best with the material we have at hand, and above all meet our readers with that sort of spirit that makes them realize that the most important thing for us is to serve them.

Almost all good systems of any kind of library work have grown little by little out of the necessities of the workers, whose ingenuity could invent from very unpromising material a way in accomplishing their results.

The first experience I had was in such a very small library that we really could hardly have any machinery at all, and I do not think that I ever could have gotten better lessons in true library spirit than there, where I had almost nothing to work with. If we are fortunate enough to have our library reorganized there is danger in time of our becoming so engrossed in the system that we really forgot the spirit.

Even in the smallest sort of library we can practice the things that lead to the right sort of spirit, especially at our loan desks, and it is there we need to use our best efforts if we wish to make our library popular. To our desks the people must come, and there they weigh us, and it does not take them very long to pass judgment upon us.

We are fortunate in having with us today Miss Mann of the Illinois state

library school, who will illustrate to us some of the ways in which we can make our libraries attractive.

Miss Mann dwelt at some length on the functions of a library, showing that its scope is without limit, its obligations are many, and its desires never ending. In the loan desk work more than in any other place lies the power to stimulate, direct, and foster the undeveloped mind, and to guide the persistent reader from a chosen line into broader and better channels. The loan desk attendant, whether the librarian or not, must gather about her all the helps she can, not only to inform herself on short notice, but to furnish the reader means by which he may help himself.

Miss Mann illustrated her talk with many printed bulletins from different libraries, and gave information as to when and how they were to be obtained. In the discussion of this point the question arose as to whether these bulletins would not be sent free to libraries where they were desired, and Miss Browning of the Indianapolis public library, reported that they had always been sent to that library free of charge.

Another point which came up for discussion was whether librarians who issued bulletins would depend upon the people who wanted them calling for them, or whether some systematic means should not be adopted for advertising them at first. It was generally agreed that they should be advertised in some way, and one member present stated that she knew of one place where not being able to issue bulletins for the whole town at one issue, they divided the town into sections and distributed to one section at one issue and to another at the next, and so on; also asked each to pass the list to some friend or neighbor when he or she was through with it.

Miss Mann's paper also brought up a discussion of the question as to the best way to interest boys and girls in better books than is usual. Miss Freeman stated that she considered the books of Kirk Munro equally undesirable for

the boys, and suggested that interest could be aroused in better books by making posters, cutting pictures from such books as *Treasure island*, *Prisoner of Zenda*, etc. Miss Ahern, in speaking on this point, said she thought the greatest faults that come from the books taken from libraries by young people is that they run in series, and the boys and girls read these books through in series—that if they can be interested in naval or war stories, science stories, or something of that sort, the difficult problem is half solved. The trouble is in reading along the line of series rather than subjects.

Someone asked if there were any libraries in the state that published bulletins, and what their experience had been in publishing them in newspapers.

The first report was from Miss Elrod of Columbus, and was as follows: We have published some, though not a great deal, but the newspapers have universally charged us. We had one bulletin early in the history of the library, published by a morning paper, that we did not pay anything for, but they did not allow us any copies of it; they distributed these to their readers. The other bulletins we published we had to pay for, and as the trustees are loath to do that, we have not published many of them.

Miss Browning, of the Indianapolis public library, stated that the Indianapolis papers were very generous with their space. She said: We publish long lists and they have given us the space, and are very glad to do it. They lend us the type and the form it is set up in, and we take them to a job printer and have them struck off. We send lists around to other libraries and to the branch libraries, and they are at the reference desk and loan desk, and people use them as a sort of call list in making out their call slips.

Miss Fitzgerald of Kokomo reported that the newspapers print for them without charge, but that they sometimes have some trouble to get it done; and Miss Hughes of Greenfield, that they publish the list for the public li-

brary there, but object to publishing the call numbers.

Mr Lindley of Richmond reported for the Morrison-Reeves library, that the newspapers have been very willing to give space, and usually have given notice an evening or two beforehand that they would publish the list on a certain evening. In some cases the paper that has published a list on a special line like Government ownership, or something of that kind, has simply placed an ad at the head of the list and run out little posters and furnished them free to the library.

Miss Ahern asked permission to have a show of hands of all librarians who used the newspapers at all. Quite a number of hands were raised, but when the question was put, How many have to pay? Columbus stood alone.

Miss Freeman of Michigan City then gave her experience, stating that they have no difficulty in getting their lists published because there are only two papers, and each editor is afraid the other will publish it if he does not. She said: In publishing our lists we put at the top, Cut this list out and use for reference. The borrowers always cut out their lists and use them as call lists. They bring them to the library and check off the books they have already read. A large number of families cut out the lists and paste them in books to use for catalogs, and as nearly all books have appeared in one form or another, these families have a fairly complete catalog of the books in the library.

Miss Lewis of Shelbyville reported that she took the lists used by the ladies' clubs in making out their programs and added to them all the books she had on the subject, so together they had a complete reference list.

Miss Hoagland of Fort Wayne, who is much interested in library work, suggested that women's clubs have pasting bees occasionally, and offer a reward for the best bulletin on a special subject, and then furnish the library with the bulletin.

Miss Mann thought a good plan was to have students in high school help

by working up bulletins along the lines that they are following in their school work.

Miss Ahern expressed great pleasure in seeing so healthy a sentiment along the line of bulletins and in hearing the remarks of Miss Mann on the subject. She emphasized the fact that bulletins should be made with some valuable point in mind. Pictures should not be used merely as picture bulletins with which the patrons are already familiar, but they should point some new idea, or emphasize an old one.

Along this line Miss Guild suggested the danger of making too many bulletins on too many subjects, rather than spending more time on one and making that one effective.

The president announced two invitations which had been extended to the members of the association, one from Miss Browning to visit the public library at any time, and the other from the Bowen-Merrill company to visit the Country club and dine Saturday noon.

Second session

The second session of the meeting was held Friday evening at eight o'clock. The first paper read was by Miss Fitzgerald of Kokomo, on The public library; its relation to the factory.* The second by Mrs Woodworth of Fort Wayne, on What special service can the library render the factory workers. She said in part:

Reform and conditions as affecting the industrial world command as never before the serious and respectful attention of the entire civilized and populated globe; and we are advised by leaders in these movements to study the needs of our laboring classes, to establish in our towns industrial committees, subscribe to labor papers, and learn what our laboring classes, who form 80 per cent of the nation, think of us, and to work in every way to assist the laborer in getting his dues. With this end in view we find many channels open and many theories advanced; theories which, worked out on practical

lines, often present a line of work which strongly appeals to individual aims.

From various motives I have been impelled to look into the matter of how a public library can render the best special service to the workingman. While I have endeavored to broaden and enlighten our narrow horizon by gathering statistics from sources, north, east, and west, the unanimity of opinion on the advisability of this effort to render special service is perhaps questionable, yet it is an interesting point to consider, both by research and experiment. It is my belief that one of the functions of the public library is to interest itself in and devise ways and means for the self-improvement of the working classes. The fortune of the nation depends largely upon the intelligence of the laboring classes; the very welfare of the republic is in their hands, for they control the ballot.

One friend in Butte, Mont., contends that it is all nonsense to make special effort to interest the working people; he says they resent it because they think they are being patronized, as if we considered them an inferior class, and says, the retired business man, the doctor, the lawyer, and the employer of the working people, does not see why he and his family may not have the same attention, and are not worth striving for, as well as the common laborer or the humbler class.

I feel that it is of vital importance to every community that its working people should be made interested in the proper use of its library; not only the established industries should find the books that bear relation to them, but every new enterprise, also, should be watched and information regarding it should be promptly supplied.

Technical works are usually very expensive and quite out of the reach of the range of the purse of the wage-earner; but so much dependence is placed upon technical works, that it may be said with truth that the industrial competitions of the future will be a struggle with brains more than with hands.

*Copy for report not furnished.

Then as a starting-point for our special service, and it must be special service, let me commend the following plan: First, we must make ourselves acquainted with the nature and work of our local industries. For artisans, and there are many employed in our large factories, books relating to their separate crafts should be placed upon the shelves. When these books are ready for circulation attention must be called to the fact, and this may be done by two or three methods; one by having the fact published by a special notice in the newspapers of the town, and again by printing a brief notice on the pay envelope used in the larger factories. In this manner your efforts will be brought face to face with every workman.

We have seen some happy results follow the following plan, adopted last year in our library: we made a formal petition to a friend of the library, and one who was also a foreman in one of our largest railroad shops. He was asked to make out a complete list of technical books needed or likely to be called for in that line of work. This plan we followed with a friend in our extensive electric works; a full list of books from the railroad shop was received and the books ordered. When ready lists of these books were posted conspicuously, and it is a matter of congratulation among ourselves to know that our effort has been crowned with success, as calls have been extensively made for these books.

I would like to cite a beautiful work done at our large knitting mills at Fort Wayne:

From a private library given to our Y. W. C. A., the secretary of the association selects books of simple little tales of love, adventure, and religion, and once a week goes to the girls in the mills at the noon hour and reads. After a few months' work she has found the girls watching and waiting for her coming, and if her going is interrupted, it is listless hands and heavy hearts that take up the woof and the warp of the relentless machines.

One thing desirable and most important to place in a library is a good supply of mechanical journals; we have had gratifying results from the placing of several engineering magazines on reading table.

Before closing I wish to speak of some boxes which we have had placed and are still placing with success in our large factories, railroad shops, and schools.

No doubt the idea is not a new one to many of you, as Mr Wright, of the St Joseph (Mo.) library, reports the use of these boxes for three years past with gratifying results; they were proposed originally for the purpose of overcoming the difficulty of reaching people, who for any reason were diffident about coming to the library and asking for application blanks. They are inexpensive hanging boxes made of strawboard, upon the front of which is printed the following:

Fort Wayne public library. Books loaned free.

Take one of the applications, fill it out in ink, have some real estate owner sign as your guarantor, then bring it to the library and books will be loaned you without charge.

Library open from 9 a. m. to 8.30 p. m.

Reading-room open from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m.

These are filled with application blanks and distributed at the above-mentioned places. As these boxes are fulfilling their mission it shows us how wise it is to follow the old woman's advice for frying rabbits; first catch your rabbit.

In conclusion, let us hope that our interest may always keep alive to the issues of the day, and try to do today the duty of today, for he who does that well finds light on his path as he goes forward into the morrow.

After these two papers a request was made that Miss Freeman of Michigan City, who has been successful in interesting the factory workers in the library, tell something of her work. Miss Freeman reported that they send to factories lists of books on subjects which would be of most interest to special people in different factories. "For instance, to car shops we send lists

of books on locomotive construction; electric plants, books on electricity, and then in factories where women are employed send typewritten lists of books on various general subjects, try to make them as practicable as possible, and books of general interest that would draw them to the libraries, rather than books on technical subjects."

Miss Freeman reports that they have informal traveling libraries of about one dozen books each, which they send to the Life saving station; that they have not the means to get a regular collection of books for that purpose, so they just send books from their collection in the library, and exchange them every two weeks. In reply to an inquiry as to how they interested the factory employes in the library, Miss Freeman said: We began by going around to the factories and talking to foremen and superintendents in an informal fashion, and often to the workingmen and girls. Then we took boxes and put up in the factories and placed library cards in them. The foremen became interested enough to draw the attention of the employes to the cards and then the superintendents promised to sign as guarantors for any employes who wished to take books from the library. We first drew the attention of the employes to books through lists taken to the factories and fastened up, and also through the papers. Men in charge of the different factories usually let us know when the cards run out, but sometimes we have to keep track of it ourselves.

A report from a Fort Wayne member was to the effect, that since they have posted lists in shops men have come to the library who never came at all before, and have taken technical books. That they have been very much gratified by the call for books.

In discussing this question Mr Henry said that this work should be done in such a way that the laboring men naturally get interested in it, not as poor people, or laboring men, but as men. He said: People despise missionary work. That is a point that has to be

guarded. That class of people who are a little bit timid about going to public places, and asking questions about things they do not know about, are a desirable class of people to be reached, whether they are factory workers or anybody else.

In speaking of men smoking in libraries, Mr Henry said it seemed to him that if some people want to smoke there is no reason why they should not smoke. He said: Our best men sit at home and read and smoke, and why should not our workingmen do the same in the library? Libraries should become more informal. Two or three members present reported that they knew of libraries where there were rooms set apart for smoking rooms.

In discussing the question of why we should do so much for one class and not for others, Mr Henry said: We are trying to give people those things which they most need. Professional men, leaders in business circles, etc., have libraries of their own and can supply themselves with the things they want. Men who work for small wages cannot do that. The public owes a debt to many of these people that it does not owe to a great many other people.

Miss Shirk asked for some suggestions in regard to charging persons who lived outside the city for the use of the library.

It was the general feeling of the association that the library should be made as free as possible until it is found to be inadequate to supply both those inside and outside the city limits.

The third paper of the evening was by Mrs Stein of Lafayette, her subject:

The public library in relation to literary clubs

I think we may safely divide the literary club people into three classes: First, the people who belong to clubs partly because it is the fad and partly for the social side. Another class is the would-be learned, who want to pose as literary with the least possible exertion; and a third class who are club

people from a real desire for culture and improvement.

With the first class, the social faddists, the librarian does not feel like putting in too much time. The club lady of this class comes gayly in, in late September. 'Tis still warm; she is just back from the mountains or seaside, well tanned and still dressed in a summer gown. She has her club program in her hand, and says with a sweet smile you can't, or don't try to, resist: Oh, I must throw myself on your mercy, I find I come so early on my club program, and my subject is—is—let me see—oh, yes!—Domestic life of the Romans. Nice subject, don't you think? My cousin spent part of last winter in Rome; I will get her to tell me all about the American colony. But what I want to ask you is, do you think I ought to tell anything about Old Rome? We venture to suggest that most likely her subject means, Life of the ancient Romans. Oh, do you think so? Well, well, now find me something nice, there's a dear—something that won't take much reading, my eyes are bothering me, I read so much this summer in the hammocks. I read the De Willoughby claim, and all the Marie Louise Pool books, and Lillian Bell, and Marie Correlli. Aren't they fine? Now give me something on the Romans—not much reading, remember. The attendant suddenly has an inspiration; she recollects a little history primer, a Day in ancient Rome. She tells the club lady she thinks she can give her just what she wants. The lady glances at it and sees she can copy her paper out of it without much trouble, and goes off quite happy. And when she reads the paper before her club they pay little attention, and pronounce it real sweet. For this class of club people the librarian need not take much trouble, for you can in no wise change the situation.

The next class, the would-be learned, are not so easily disposed of. They must pose, and we must possess our souls with patience. These club people are ready to undertake any subject,

and run to such topics as, The ethical element in the drama; Revival of spirituality in France; Empires of the world; Pantheistic tendencies of Rousseau; The submerged tenth, etc. They will undertake any one of these subjects that would take months of study to be able to talk intelligently upon, and expect to be prepared in a week's time. They will come in and tell you they want to consult some books, ask to see the librarian, are quite particular as to what they have. They will tell you they have read so much on the subject they are looking up that all they want now is something condensed. They want only to brighten themselves up, revive recollections on some points they have become a little rusty on; read so much, you know, the mind gets a little confused. The librarian smiles and knows that in all probability what they read now will be the very first they have ever read on the subject. But never mind, we do the best we can for them, give them something condensed; they will pick up some items of information, and if they do affect to be literary without much reason, it is a harmless little affectation, and does not hurt anybody, and as Barrie says of Sentimental Tommy: Why begrudge them their little strut. Not long ago one of this class said to the librarian: I want something on my club subject, which is Homer and the epic. Have you any good commentaries on the Iliad? When told we had, she said, You may give me a copy of the Iliad also. Give me a translation, please, as I am a little rusty in my Latin. Rusty in her Latin. What was the librarian to do? She retired behind an alcove and thought. Of course her first impulse is to say: Why, my dear madam, Homer was a Greek. If she does the patron is mortified and forever unfriendly to the librarian, simply because she has betrayed her ignorance before her. On the other hand, if the librarian says nothing the patron will find out her own mistake and think the librarian ignorant. What ought the librarian to

have done, "the lady or the tiger?"

Let us speak a minute of the third class, the real club worker. While they demand much, and are sometimes vexatious, they are, on the whole, a delight to the true librarian. With them you come in contact with all kinds of active minds, bent in pursuit of all kinds of knowledge; and any patron truly interested in whatever research he or she may be making is sure to appreciate the zealous efforts of the librarian in putting the very best material at his command in their hands. Every librarian knows—or should know—his resources. I believe they should be drawn on to the utmost. Bits of information on certain subjects are often lurking round in unexpected places, and it is the librarian's business to let nothing escape; and while once in a while the club patron is trying, and after you have gone to no end of trouble seems dissatisfied, and will think you might have done better, as a rule, however, they are grateful. And no doubt at times the librarians have not done their best. The complaint is justified and honors are even.

Mrs Earl offered a resolution that the Indiana Library association extend a cordial invitation to the A. L. A. to hold its 1901 meetings at Winona.

After the expression of a very earnest desire of most of the members to have the A. L. A. come to Indiana, the motion was made and passed that the Indiana Library association extend an invitation to the A. L. A. to come to Winona.

A motion was then made by Miss Hoagland, that a committee be appointed to draft resolutions favoring the establishment of a library school at Winona. The motion passed and the president appointed Miss Hoagland, Miss Ball, and Miss Dean on said committee.

Miss Ahern, as an accredited representative of the A. L. A., extended a cordial invitation to those present to attend the next meeting of that body. She spoke of the great good that the meet-

ing would bring to the library work of the country, and particularly to the individual librarians who attend. Trustees who had never been, were urged to go to the A. L. A., and bring back to the institution which they serve the feeling of responsibility which always befalls trustees who meet others of the craft at these meetings.

Third session

Saturday morning's work opened with a paper by S. B. Plashett, of West Newton, on

Our traveling libraries.

He said in part: It is not the purpose of this paper to discuss the traveling library in general. It will merely set forth our experience with it at West Newton, as to a few points:

1 How we secured an organization to obtain it. Our organization was very simple and easy to obtain. The law provides that any five or more citizens may organize a library association, which, on furnishing security satisfactory to the Library commission, shall be entitled to the use of the traveling libraries under the rules and regulations of said commission.

Five citizens, interested in the welfare of the community, were easy to obtain. We applied for the rules and regulations, also procured all blanks. We had a little meeting one evening, at which we elected a president, secretary, treasurer, and librarian. Two of the members furnished the necessary security by signing a \$100 bond. In a few days our application and bond were filed with the state librarian; a box of books selected and brought out by one of the citizens of the village. The whole library business was turned over to the librarian, who happens to be principal of the school. With us the organization was purely a matter of form in order to comply with the law and the rules of the commission. This may not be the best way, but I am simply stating the facts.

2 As to how the books were appreciated. This may be answered by showing what use we made of them. We

kept the books in connection with our small high school library. We followed the rules of the commission. Each borrower filed his application, stating that he would take proper care of the books borrowed by him, pay for all damages, and abide by all the rules and regulations. He was given a borrower's card. In the school year of 1899-1900 we used three boxes of books—40 in each box. The last box was in use only about a month when school closed, and the library was closed for the summer. Books were taken out about 300 times. Upon inquiry it was found that they were read each time by from two to five. Sometimes all the members of the family read the books. Our borrowers were mainly high school students, coming from all parts of the township. Most of them were country boys and girls. The books were appreciated by them as well as by their parents. Many of them have never had the advantages of a good library, and some have few books in their homes.

3 What difficulties stood in the way of perfect success? We think that we were paid for our trouble and had a fair degree of success, although not perfect. We had some books for which we had little demand. In having books in sets, oftentimes you are compelled to take books which you have in your home library in order to get something else you want. Again, we found there was little demand among the farmers for books on agriculture. We made a special effort to get these books read, but found we did not accomplish much. Many of the books in history were not read except as they were used in connection with school work. The same is true with books on science and nature. The librarian was the only one to use the books on economics and civil government. There was very little demand for poetry. Those who read Shakespeare generally have his works and read it, a little at a time, just as they feel like it. We are surprised to find that books on travel were not called for more. Of course I tell you nothing new when I say that the great demand

was for fiction. This demand was the stronger, perhaps, because most of the borrowers were school-children. They said that they had to work when getting their lessons. When this was over they wanted something easy and entertaining to read. Some wanted to read too many books and had to be limited.

4 I think the books were well selected. I appreciate the difficulty in selecting 40 books so as to please all classes of readers. Of the 120 books used I only questioned the value of one. As to the management of the libraries, I think it is all right. The books are well packed in good boxes. It is possible that a simpler method might be used to keep a record of the books. For our needs, I would suggest more books for children from the fifth to the sixth grades. We need popular histories. A great deal of material is needed in American history and biography. We do not need Greek and Roman stories, as the demand is supplied by Young people's reading circles.

The next paper was prepared by Robert W. Shaw, librarian of a rural club in Jefferson county, giving an account of the use of the traveling library. He said in part:

About a year ago our club was organized, its main object being to get the use of the traveling libraries. Our present membership is 40, and the first library arrived about December 1 last, and was kept three months. Meetings were held every three weeks and short literary programs rendered, and it was our purpose to so arrange the programs as to give each of the 40 members of the club a chance to either read or hear a review at least of the best books of the library.

An initiation fee of 10 cents was charged, which has paid all expenses to date, and we have on hand our third library.

The first library was read just 200 times during the three months, an average of five times per volume; and the second 130 times, an average of a little over three times per volume. This illus-

trates the difference between winter and spring or summer reading.

It has cost us about \$1.60 to get the use of a library; or, in other words, each library has cost us an average of 4 cents per member.

Our club may not be similar to others in this respect, but however it differs from others it remains a fact that the members want fiction, and many of them nothing but fiction. The farmer and his family work hard a good part of the year, and they read—many of them at least—principally for recreation. When the supply of light reading is exhausted the other volumes are taken and read, but the supply of fiction in a single library does not supply one-third the demand just in our club of 40 members.

It might be better for us if we read less fiction and more of something more valuable and lasting, but that is not the question. It is not what we should do, but what we are doing that is of interest; and it may be that the 1 member out of 10 who reads scientific and serious volumes gets as much good out of 1 book as the 9 others all do out of the 9 volumes of fiction. So, of course we would not have the libraries contain nothing but fiction. About 15 fiction and only 5 juvenile, only 2 of science and nature and 3 volumes on farm topics, would be about the changes we would advise. This would give us a library of 40 volumes, as follows:

Fiction.....	15
Juvenile.....	5
Historical and descriptive.....	4
Biography.....	3
Economics and civil government.....	2
Science and nature.....	2
Humor.....	1
Agriculture.....	3
Moral and religious.....	1
Essay and belles-lettres.....	2
Poetry and drama.....	2
—.....	—
Total.....	40

This would be about our ideal general traveling library. And again, of course the libraries can be increased only as the demand requires and the funds allow, but it would be very convenient to us if the state owned a few hundred of extra

or miscellaneous volumes, which could be added to the libraries in part when the latter were forwarded to us. Or, in fact, to have things so arranged that we could practically pick a good part of our library by the volume; and could just take the books that we needed or desired. By way of illustration, take the library that we have on hand at present, No. 51. Of the 40v. the 10 of fiction have been read 40 times, an average of 4 times per volume; 17 of the other books have never been read at all, and the remaining 13 have been read 24 times. This shows that practically half of the books of this library are of no use to us. So one half the amount expended really yields no returns.

The study or special libraries are valuable and convenient, and though we have never used them we realize their worth and importance, and would advise that they be increased rather than diminished. Why not, if the funds admit, have special libraries, each library containing the works of one author only? For instance, have a library containing the plays of Shakespeare or one of the works of Gen. Lew Wallace. These would be very valuable to clubs similar to our own, that desire to study a certain author, or read the works of a noted novelist.

The libraries are very useful to us. They promote sociability and furnish good pastime reading. The books are splendid company during the long winter evenings and other odd moments during the year.

In discussing the traveling libraries, Mrs Earl, of the Library commission, spoke particularly of the Study libraries, and asked that librarians call the attention of club people in various towns to the special libraries for the study club. She said: Many of the clubs do not know what excellent libraries there are that could be at their disposal, and I am sure through librarians these might be reached.

Mrs Woodworth, representing a ladies' club of Fort Wayne, reported that they had become very much interested

in the traveling libraries, and had sent out 100 letters in Allen county, asking people to apply to the commission for directions.

Miss Ahern brought up the question of how far or to what degree the traveling libraries had stimulated an interest in libraries, and started libraries where there were none before. Mr Henry reported that no public libraries had been organized as yet, but that the question was being agitated in two counties.

Mr Henry, secretary of the Library commission, then read a report on the traveling libraries in Indiana.

Equivalent of 60 libraries have been in circulation 12 months.

Number of centers reached.....	60
Number of counties reached.....	39
Number of books in all libraries circulated to Oct. 31, 1900.....	1874
Number of books in all libraries ready for circulation Oct. 31, 1900.....	2674
Number of libraries now ready to loan...	80
Total number of library loans.....	107
Total number of books in library loans..	4264
Number of different volumes read.....	2554
Total number of readings.....	7062

In speaking of the traveling libraries in connection with the school Mr Henry said: I have urged that the traveling library be not put in the school, for it is likely to become merely a school library.

Mr Plaskett reported that they kept their library right in the school. However, he said that the books are not read at school, but taken to their homes and read in their homes, and as the school is a township high school, in that way the books are scattered over the township and read by their parents as well as the children.

Mr Henry also stated that what Indiana needed most and hoped sometime to have was a traveling librarian, which suggestion met the hearty approval of the association.

The third paper of the morning was prepared by Mr Whiteman of Portland, on the subject, How we organized and are sustaining a public library. Mr Whiteman was not able to be present, and his paper was read by Mr Henry. Mr Whiteman's paper brought up the

question as to how many mills on the dollar was the limit to tax levy for library purposes in towns of Indiana, and it was answered that the General assembly of 1899 amended the law of 1881 and 1883, so that the limit is now 1 mill on the dollar, or 10 cents on the hundred. Reports from different librarians on the subject were as follows: Indianapolis has 4 cents on the hundred; Michigan City, 6 cents, and Fort Wayne, 3 cents on the hundred.

In speaking of the library laws of Indiana, Mr Henry said: Our library laws are not satisfactory. We have a lot of material on our books, but no one law is satisfactory, and all of them together are not satisfactory. What we need is a complete revision to simply wipe from the books all that is there.

The last number on the program was a paper by Miss Freeman on

Use of pictures in library work

Miss Freeman, who spoke without notes, began by referring to the many valuable articles on the use of pictures which have appeared in the library periodicals of late, and said that she had been nearly awed into borrowing that famous speech of the Rev. Frederick Ingham's double, in Edward Everett Hale's story: There has been so much said, and on the whole so well said, that I will not occupy the time. She added that it might be, however, that some of the librarians from the smaller libraries which were limited, like the library in Michigan City, both as to funds and assistants, might be interested in an outline of some of the lines of picture work which it had been found possible to carry on in the Michigan City library, in spite of its limitations.

The speaker said that in her talk she should assume that pictures have a legitimate place in library work. She spoke with enthusiasm of the papers and discussion on pictures in the session of the Montreal conference which was given to library work with children, and referred especially to Miss Moore's Warning collection of pictures, illustrating what not to do, and some of the

things to be avoided in the selection and use of pictures.

Miss Freeman spoke in part as follows: I should like first to speak briefly of the pictures which are to find permanent place upon a library's walls, and especially upon the walls of the children's room. I cannot speak too strongly of the care with which these should be chosen, not only because of their educational value, but because of the lasting impression which they make upon the mind of the child, and the silent atmosphere which they create about him. Every great picture is the embodiment of a thought in the mind of the artist, and the creator of a thought in the mind of the child.

Children are much more susceptible to spiritual impressions than we realize. I have been interested in watching the effect upon the children of the different pictures in our children's room. The one to which they oftenest return, and before which they stand in a sort of silent reverence, is Watt's Sir Galahad. It is true the noble white horse and the mail-clad young knight would naturally attract the attention and interest of any child; but beyond this, they seem in some unconscious way to catch the thought behind it, the spiritual essence of the picture.

There should be in every children's room at least one of the old Madonna pictures, with its silent testimony to the divinity in all childhood. There is no picture in our library which the children so love as "the baby Jesus picture," as some of the little ones call it, and its appeal is not made to the children alone.

Children are very sensitive, too, to the atmosphere of a picture. Sunset and moonlight effects appeal to them strongly, especially where there is water in the picture to reflect the light. They love the subtle atmospheric effects of Corot, and marine pieces such as *The Return of the fishing boats*, by Mesdag.

All children love hero pictures, such courage and action as are represented in St Gauden's beautiful Shaw memorial. And they all love fine animal pic-

tures. One of the most popular pictures in our children's room is that fine Landseer dog, *A distinguished member of the humane society*. Landseer, Rosa Bonheur, Troyon, or some one of the great animal painters, should certainly be represented in your collection.

For the very little ones, there should be, if possible, one child picture, such as one of the charming groups of Jean Geoffroy or Boutet de Monvel. Geoffroy's *Infant class* is a great favorite with the children in our library. If it is impossible to afford the larger reproductions of these pictures, beautiful full-page colored prints may be taken from the books illustrated by Boutet de Monvel, these books costing only from \$1.25 to \$3 each.

Some of you may perhaps feel that framed pictures for your library walls are a luxury which you cannot possibly afford. The new reproductive processes have, however, made good prints of famous paintings so inexpensive, that it would seem as if at least one such print should be within the reach of every library. Try interesting your Woman's club, or some similar organization, in giving you one well-framed, good reproduction of a famous picture. One good picture helps to create an atmosphere of its own in a room, which in some occult way draws other pictures about it.

Miss Freeman then spoke of the way in which the beautiful pictures in the Michigan City library had come to them, all as gifts, most of them from one friend of the library, Mrs. J. H. Barker, as a birthday gift from her little daughter.

Attention was called to a bulletin on *Traveling pictures and schoolroom decoration*, which has just been issued by the Home education department of the university of the state of New York. It contains a carefully compiled list of 100 pictures suitable for high schools, followed by a full-page halftone of each picture with a brief description, and among other matters, a list of publishers from whom the best reproductions may be obtained. Every librarian who

is interested in the selection and use of pictures will find this bulletin a mine of wealth. It may be obtained from the New York State library at a price not yet determined, but between 25 and 50 cents. A suggestive little list of some pictures and plaster casts suitable for a permanent place in a children's library, given by Miss Moore in her article referred to above, was also mentioned.

Your permanent pictures may be supplemented, said the speaker, by occasional picture exhibitions, what Mr Cutter calls Concerts of the pictorial arts. The Helman-Taylor Art Co. of New York, Anderson Art Co. of Chicago, and other firms, send traveling art exhibitions to libraries upon easy terms. By paying for packing, freight and insurance, original drawings by the best illustrators may be had for exhibit upon application to the Century Publishing Co., and to Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York. The spirit of sharing a good thing with others, which is growing so strong among our libraries, is making it possible for the smaller libraries to have the benefit of exhibits which the larger libraries have gotten together, as in the case of the Cromwell exhibition of pictures, belonging to the Springfield (Mass.) library, which has been exhibited in many libraries, large and small, both in New England and farther west.

Mention was made of several picture exhibitions which have been held in the Michigan City library, and specimens were shown from some of the smaller exhibits which have been made upon screens, as the colored bird plates and mounted magazine covers. An amateur photography exhibit will be held there November 17.

A distinction was drawn between picture bulletins and picture exhibitions, but special emphasis was laid upon the fact that both should present some one subject, and only one at a time, and that both should be accompanied by descriptive text, if possible, and in any case by at least a brief reading list, if the object of bringing the public, and

especially the children, into close relationship with the books was to be secured; also, that the books themselves should be displayed and lists published in the local papers.

An objection which is often made to picture work, the speaker said, is the great amount of time required for the preparation of picture bulletins. The point was emphasized that effective, impressionistic works may be done with comparatively small expenditure of time and energy. This point was illustrated by the description of a striking South African screen, that was shown at the Michigan City library in the spring. When there is time for nothing else, a map or double-page picture, illustrating some event of current interest, may be fastened in one corner of the blackboard, and a list of books written beside it in bright chalks.

A number of picture bulletins were shown, which had been kindly loaned by the New York State library school and the Drexel Institute library school, with two or three from the Michigan City library; most of these were intended to illustrate the effective work which may be done with inexpensive materials and little labor. Bulletins were grouped under various heads, such as topic-of-the-day bulletins, holiday, special day and special season bulletins, travel and history bulletins, and new book bulletins, with suggestions for the making of each. Attention was called to the fact that the New York State library school, and the University of Illinois library school, will gladly loan to libraries any of the picture bulletins made by their students upon payment of transportation charges.

Pictures for use outside the library were next discussed, with special reference to the mounted pictures to be loaned for school reference work with nature, geography, history, and literature classes. Various sources were suggested from which the pictures may be obtained, the best source being the old and new magazines and papers. Harper's black and white prints, for sale by the Helman-Taylor Art Co.

of New York, were recommended as among the best 1-cent prints thus far published. Specimen copies of Hood's photos of the world, mounted on gray cards, were shown. Reference was made to the January, 1900, number of Suggestions for bulletins, published by the Wisconsin Free library commission, which contains an excellent list of the sources of supply, with suggestions as to mounting, classifying, and use. Library clubs may be formed among high school students to do the work necessary in preparing pictures for use. An outline was given of the method used in the Michigan City library, and samples of the gray paper in use were shown.

The meeting was closed with the election of the following officers for the coming year: Marilla Waite Freeman, Michigan City, president; F. A. Walker, Anderson, vice-president; Jennie Elrod, Columbus, secretary; Nellie Fatout, Indianapolis, treasurer.

Post conference on public documents

Mr Henry acted as chairman of the Post conference on public documents, and in a general way told what the state library had been doing with them. He then said he would put the matter in the hands of Miss Chapin, who would explain more fully what they had done.

Miss Chapin said that the United States documents had been classified as closely as possible, putting each report in its own class. The books which were so miscellaneous that they could not be put in any one place in particular were classified in 328 with the chronological table, called the New York Public library scheme, for the book numbers. The department reports, such as the Treasury department, War department, etc., were classified in 353.

Miss Mann said that the library at the University of Illinois shelves its documents according to the check list. She said pamphlets were given a call number which was transferred to the book when bound.

Mr Danforth, of the State university, said that they got their pamphlets bound for 10 cents each. The covers

are bound with cloth back. The front cover of the pamphlet is pasted onto the board cover if the pamphlet has a separate title-page; otherwise the pamphlet cover is bound right in with the rest.

Mr Henry showed a pamphlet case which he thought served the purpose better than any he had seen. This is a pasteboard box opening at the front. At the top is a place for a label to indicate the contents of the box, and at the bottom is put a label with the call number on it. The session adjourned.

At the close of the discussion the party, to the number of 40, repaired to the bookstore of Bowen-Merrill Co., where they mounted tally-hoes and breaks, and were taken along a most beautiful road out to the Country club. Here the privileges of the club were freely extended and a very elegant six-course luncheon served. At its close Miss Ahern gave an appropriate toast to the Bowen-Merrill Co., to which there was ready response by the guests. The conveyances were again brought around, and the company were taken their several ways well pleased with the occasion.

Iowa Library Association Meeting

The eleventh annual meeting of the Iowa Library association met in the council chamber, in the Sioux City library building, on Thursday morning, October 18, with a goodly company of interested persons present.

The weather was regular Indian summer days, and the wide, wind-swept streets of the city were gorgeous in autumnal foliage. Nebraska, South Dakota, and Illinois were represented in addition to Iowa, and the very pleasant greeting extended to the visitors on their arrival by the local committee made everyone feel ready to enjoy the meeting and profit by its exercises.

The meeting opened with an address by the president, Capt. W. H. Johnston of Fort Dodge. Capt. Johnston, after a warm welcome, spoke of the work of the association, and hoped the members

would not feel that since the commission was formed there was nothing further for the association to do. There was much yet to accomplish that the association alone must do.

He then reviewed the work of the past eight years, giving statistics of the growth of the libraries at Des Moines, Burlington, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Ottumwa, Keokuk, Independence, and Dubuque; referred in commendable terms to the work done by the traveling libraries; spoke of the bright future of the school and college libraries of the state. He advocated buying books rather than waiting to organize, allowing people to come and get what they wanted once or twice a week, independent of any organization.

The secretary next read a very comprehensive report of the proceedings of the meeting at Cedar Rapids, and gave the financial report.

State Librarian Brigham, on request of the president, told of the steps taken which had secured the State library commission from the legislature. He paid a high tribute to the work of the women's clubs in securing the commission.

The afternoon session was opened by Miss McCrory of Cedar Rapids, who had charge of a series of practical topics. She opened the series with an illustrated talk on Book repairing. Some of her advice was as follows: Never let a book go out torn. Do not repair too often before sending to bindery. Never use glue to mend books.

The next was on Bookbinding, by Wm. Rispalja of Sioux City. He said in part:

The greatest taste has been shown in all ages in the matter of bookbinding, and whether we examine the gorgeous but clumsy covers of the eleventh and twelfth century, the splendidly bound books of the revival period, or the wonderful works of the modern artists who honor the art of bookbinding, there is always something to charm the fancy and gratify the taste.

As a mere manufacture, bookbinding has been obliged to keep pace with the

rapid increase in the number of books produced. Yankee ingenuity has invented machinery to facilitate the work of binding, so that today some houses can, in the short space of five hours, after the last page has left the press, bind complete over 1000 copies of an edition.

The bound volumes issued from the numerous publishers today are in great contrast to those of less than a quarter of a century. New and improved machinery are constantly brought before the manufacture of books, that it can truly be said that a complete volume is entirely bound by machinery, and the book thus bound need not be in fear of ever going through the same ordeal again.

The task of keeping in repair the books in a public library is, to say the least, a perplexing one, and oftentimes the librarian, through motives of economy, withholds the rebinding of books until the books are almost beyond repair, and when the binder finally receives the books for repairing he has all but a pleasant job. The old adage, A stitch in time saves nine, could be applied in a certain measure in our library with profit to the librarian, and a continuation of pleasant looks to the binder.

Another vexatious problem that has often confronted the librarian is the apparent inexcusable delay in having the books returned from the binder within a reasonable length of time. One of the causes of delay can be attributed to the season of the year when the binder is rushed with other work, and puts off repairing the books until such a time when his other work will permit it. As a rule, the months of July and August, in the summer, and March and April in the spring, the binder can devote more time to the binding of magazines and other repairs on books without encroaching upon county blank work.

The binder then explained by samples the various steps and stages of bookbinding, and gave several bits of information about leathers.

The next talk was on Library records, by Miss Price of Nebraska, who had

just finished the library course in the University of Illinois. Her general advice was to steer between too many and too few records. She then took up the various records, beginning with the accession book, and showed the importance of each.

State Supt. Barrett being present, was called on by Pres. Johnstone, and spoke for a few moments. He called attention to the fact that 70 per cent of the children of school age in Iowa live in the country. For them the school library law had been passed, and it was the hope of the school authorities, by means of that law, to place a library in every school in the state.

The next paper was by Mrs M. M. Battis, librarian of Marshalltown, on

Children and the library

It is one of those fabled castles of ours to make the library an attractive home, for children especially, during spare hours. To do this we have our children's corner furnished with tables, one bearing new periodicals and old also (if clean and good); one furnished with illustrated books for the younger children. If these books are daintily illustrated, characters faithfully portrayed, they will never tire of looking them through, while they would be restless visitors at the table for the older brothers and sisters. I agree with Evva Moore of Oak Park when she says: Taste for good picture-books cultivates a taste for stories about good pictures, and many of our best books are thus grounded.

We also have a blackboard upon which may be written each day some fact, anniversary, or quotation, as may best suit the occasion; a suspended bulletin cloth for clippings and pictures of current events, with permanent pictures and growing plants or flowers where available.

These are always of interest, for to the children reared without beauty in the home, a bunch of asters or golden-rod, a growing lily or geranium, makes a spot of color very attractive, and few children there are who do not enjoy

looking at choice masterpieces. Such pictures as Bodenhause's Madonna, Rosa Bonheur's Horse fair, Adam's Cat family, and Corot's Spring, make delightful permanent pictures for our children's corner.

To add to the comfort of the children a washstand is available, partially concealed by a screen, serviceable as announcement board for new book covers.

These attractions, added to a fairly good array of pure books, make a pleasant place much enjoyed by the lads and lassies. A German legend tells us of an enchanted castle overgrown with flowers, the door of which is opened by the key flower—our common primrose. Inside, the castle is filled with gold and precious stones, while on the wall is the inscription, Take what you will, but be sure you choose the best. So over these cases of books for our children I would we could all truthfully write in letters of gold, Take what you will, for here is only the best.

Of course children will read what they like and enjoy. If we can find out what that is, and satisfy that demand with the purest and best possible literature in that line, we have gained much. But it is also true that at an early age children can be directed and trained in regard to their reading; for left to themselves they can no more be trusted to get their own knowledge of and taste for literature unaided, than they can get their scientific and mathematical training unaided. But this training must begin early, for by 12 years of age most children have their tastes quite decidedly formed. Begin when a child begins to read, or before, by story telling, and the mature years will prove the liking thus formed well developed.

Electra C. Doren of Dayton, Ohio, well says, As great even as a good book is the power to communicate to another the love for a good book. To win children to this love, to lead them to appropriate to themselves ideals from characters in books, to appeal to the sense of ethical relation through their imaginations, to deepen and enrich the emotions by suggestion, in other words,

to so read a good book into a child that he is bound in some way to live it out in himself is the privilege of the library.

But to do this and get the best results in the doing of it, both parent and teacher must be in strong sympathy with the library and its aims. If parents would only be interested in what the child reads, and if teachers would find out what material was available in the library, and assist in interesting the children in such supplementary material, great good could be accomplished.

Librarians usually know more about books, while teachers know more of the children, so active coöperation is absolutely necessary.

Abby L. Sargent comments strongly against such authors as Oliver Optic, Alger, Fosdick, etc., and suggests that if the librarians' hands are too full for interesting the boys in better reading, that it is a poor community that cannot furnish cultured, sympathetic persons, who can draw a group of children into their corner and open to their eager ears a better class of literature. Unhappily we cannot begin with the grandmothers, as Mr Holmes suggested, but we can do our best to make good reading more attractive than bad.

When we, as librarians, unite our strength to condemn and banish such books from our shelves it will go far to limit their publication, and as the boys and girls, naturally receptive, learn to appreciate books of a higher and better stamp, we have gone a long way toward educating our new trustees and future grandmothers, who will be directing the affairs of the library not many years hence.

No special effort has been made by us, as yet, to direct the personal reading, although each member of the staff stands ready to assist in finding the books to suit the individual tastes. Thus you readily discover the bent of the child and can suggest works on electricity to the boy who has a liking for experiments, and to the boy of an inventive turn of mind books on traps prove quite alluring, though in return you may receive the whispered confi-

dence: Say, Misses; I made a mole-trap like this here one but I can't find no moles to catch.

But let us all remember that when children are ready to leave school (all too young in most cases) their self-education will begin in earnest, and one of the best lessons that the school can teach is to launch people upon their independent life with a taste for good reading, and a judgment sufficiently developed to select the right class of books; and the library must furnish the chief opportunity for these children to read these self same books. As our motto, let us take Pres. Eliot's oft-repeated words: It is always through the children that the best work is to be done for the uplifting of any community.

Mrs Battis dwelt at some length on the good results from special day celebrations, pictures, bulletins, and other library aids.

The discussion of the paper was prepared by Miss Bennett of Oskaloosa, and read by Miss McLoney. She said in part:

First, how can we get our library boards to see the benefits and possibilities of this subject? Next, how can a librarian in a small library, which is open to the public say for two or three hours a day, accomplish anything in individual work? A librarian, besides possessing common sense, knowledge of human nature, discrimination about books, tact and backbone, needs a course in child study to help him know at what periods a child should have different classes of books, for if, as educators claim, the child passes through the same periods in his life as the human race, and each child inherits the race characteristics, then ought the librarian to know when travel, adventure, biography, etc., will appeal to the child, and how to reach him at his point of contact. One of the greatest problems in all this work seems to be getting the children to read good books—you may say rightly that the teacher and parents will do this—but it is the experience of all librarians that half of the parents do

not know nor care what their children read. One librarian told me that parents seem to care more for large type in books than for the subject-matter. How then shall we cultivate this good taste? The problem does not solve easily in the small libraries where there is no room for posters, pictures, talks, children's nooks and the library open only a short time each day. What could be more helpful then than the coöperation of the parents and teachers, and now that the mothers' congress has awakened the mothers, and clubs for study are being formed all over our state, can we not ask for a library day in each of these clubs? A gentleman told me that he tried having his son read his Sunday-school lesson aloud for practice in reading and found it uphill work; but when he handed him a circus bill he read it eagerly, the big words were no longer hard, and with dictionary and encyclopedia the whole bill was read understandingly, and the boy had learned many interesting and curious items and was anxious to read more. If books taken from the library were read at home there might be some eliminations made, and some parents might be benefited as well as the children. Children read too many books; the constant skimming through a story book causes a paralysis of thought, and leaves no room for the imagination, reason, or for reflection, and the power to make another's thought one's own is soon lost. Another point that ought to be more thoroughly discussed is the suggestion of talks and lectures for the children. This it seems would be a practical work in all libraries, large or small. A bright, interesting speaker is the first requisite; then by having the children reproduce by speech, pen, or pencil, one could know how much they had understood of the talk. Give them a subject for the next meeting and ask them to find all they can about it, thereby giving them a chance for investigation, for next to knowing a subject oneself the next best thing is to know where to find out about it, and what we get for ourselves is worth more than all the talking of other

people. Would it not help the librarians and buying committees if each child under 14 were asked to write a list of his favorite books, and why he liked them? Also, what books he wanted to read, and what he liked best to do? These questions could be filed and would no doubt prove very suggestive.

Books for children

Quite a discussion of proper books for children's libraries followed. Miss Ahern said that what children liked to read should be given as much consideration as what they ought to read. Look at the books as far as possible through the children's eyes. No harm lies in wanting a live, vigorous story of adventure. See that the books are clean, well written, healthy in tone, true to nature, with the appeal made to the higher nature in a perfectly normal way, and no harm can come from reading them. It is the abnormally good people in books, the shedder of blood wantonly for blood's sake, the trickster and braggart, who are to be condemned. Children should and do love really good people who are human—the hero of battle for a righteous cause, the clear-headed, self-reliant man who does not stoop from his high principles of right to win the applause that is rightly his—and close acquaintance with these latter will prevent an intimacy with the former.

Miss McCrory said she was sorry to report that her scheme of reading clubs had defeated itself. The children read too quickly and too many books, simply to fill up their cards.

Miss McLoney said: I am not nearly so afraid of vicious books being taken out of a library by boys and girls as I am that they will get books of faulty literary construction. The fact is that vicious books very seldom get into a library, but many volumes whose literary style is bad are apt to get on the shelves. I really believe more harm is done the young by slovenly written books than by books of evil intent.

Thursday evening was devoted to the work of the Library commission. An

address of welcome to Sioux City was delivered by Judge Wakefield. The principal address of the evening was by Miss Tyler, secretary of the Iowa commission. The address was one of the best that has been given on the subject. Miss Tyler said in part:

Commissions have been one of the means of fostering and developing interests, both commercial and educational, in the state and the nation; they place in the hands of those especially qualified and interested the duty of emphasizing the importance of certain interests involved.

The past 10 years have seen a phenomenal growth of the public library movement, and in this period has developed the Library commission, the first one being created in Massachusetts in 1890; since then 17 commissions have come into existence in the following states: New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, Wisconsin, Ohio, Georgia, New York, Colorado, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Iowa. These differ in composition and methods, according to varying local conditions, but their common aim is to inspire communities with a desire for library service, and to foster zeal and earnestness among library workers in making the library of the greatest service to a community. In none of these commissions does any member receive compensation for service.

In some states a small sum in the nature of a bounty is given to librarians making a beginning, sometimes in money, sometimes in books; but the method of sending at regular intervals a collection of fresh literature by means of the traveling library seems to be the best way by which the state can aid the local library in keeping up an interest. The traveling library is the strong right arm of a library commission, and in Iowa is one of the most promising features of library development. The commission must deal with conditions such as:

1 Character of the population, whether largely English speaking; oc-

cupations, labor conditions, size of the cities, etc.

2 Character and attitude of the public schools.

3 Relations with other educational interests of the state—women's clubs, P. E. O. societies, Chautauqua circles, farmers' institutes, etc.

4 Number, size, and efficiency of libraries already in the state, their value to their community.

The work before us, after acquainting ourselves with conditions, is so great that without the coöperation of every friend of libraries in Iowa it will be long in being consummated.

1 There should be a free public library in every town and city in the state.

2 The commission in every way possible will help the libraries already in existence to improve their service to the community.

3 To help libraries select the best books by means of a suggestive list the commission hopes to prepare.

4 To use the traveling library as an adjunct in its work in interesting communities in library matters.

5 To issue a quarterly bulletin which may serve to arouse interest in Iowa libraries and be a means of communication between libraries and librarians.

6 To collect magazines and periodicals to redistribute where most needed; a library clearing house, it has been termed.

7 To emphasize the value of the earnest, capable librarian, whose personal work makes books and buildings and fixtures serve her in bringing the best books to the young.

To give to every individual, no matter how limited has been his school education, the means by which he can educate himself in all the years that are before him by means of the printed books, is the mission of the public library.

Friday morning opened with the report of committees, resolutions, etc.

The first two numbers on the program were omitted on account of the failure of those who had accepted the

positions to appear, no excuse being offered or substitute provided. Miss Robertson, county superintendent of Cherokee, by request of the president, told of the library situation in that county, where they have collected very good school libraries, which are growing so rapidly and so strong that it is a problem how to manage them. The duties of her office are too onerous for her to take the responsibility in that direction, and the teachers, as a general thing, have all they can do to give attention to their regular duties. It was advised that the school authorities appoint a regular librarian to take charge of the work, and also inaugurate a system of traveling libraries from some center.

The first paper of the morning was by A. P. Fleming of Des Moines, who showed in a vigorous arrayal of facts the baleful effect of politics entering library management, and who strongly urged a reform in the matter. An interesting general discussion followed.

The next paper was on Best books for a small library, by Mrs Oberholtzer, librarian of Sioux City. She said in part:

People are much in the habit of saying that the hope of the world is in its work for children. I do not think so, but work with children shows far more than any other, is quicker in its results, and has a large hopefulness. The small library is like work with children in this respect. It is possible to watch the effect of each book and to measure results in the development of individuals.

The library in a small town may have more direct influence than is possible in the more complex life of the larger place. Each book, too, may have a distinct personality when it is one of 1000, which is less easily traced when it becomes one of 50,000. The librarian can know each book with thoroughness and bring a sympathetic personality to the introduction of books to readers quite impossible when both are multiplied and divided. The library in a town of 20,000 people may expect to deal with all sorts and conditions of men and

women, and must plan to meet a wide range of needs. The small library must fit its own people.

The library's contents should be like the traditional bride's dress, which must have "something old and something new; something borrowed and something blue."

Something "old" surely. Each period has its own surface interests and its undertone. So the library must have some of the books which are largely advertised as new and popular; but its main lines, its undertone, must go back to current events and new novels to take its "grip on the base of the world."

The library must have something "borrowed," which means something not rightly owned. Almost everyone has some pet extravagance, some set of books for whose possession he apologizes, but which is his greatest pride and comfort.

Something "blue." Blue as a color symbolizes abstract truth. In literature for convenience we will take it to mean that called the literature of power. This includes the books whose choice most concerns the library, for it means all works of imagination and poetry, and this age takes its poetry in the form of prose fiction. Library workers should cease regretting that people will read fiction, and set themselves to establish a standard for the books they admit to their shelves. This is not easy, for the world at large has no standard; writers are uneven in their work. An error in choice counts in the small library.

The same general principles hold in selecting children's stories as in novels. First there must be a story to tell; second, its general trend must be sane and wholesome; third, the book must have literary style.

In all departments the small library must choose with a careful regard for the various aspects of use and beauty, planning a foundation from which to build with symmetry and with thought for all classes; having no fads or hobbies, but plenty of taste, judgment, and sympathy for all.

The afternoon session was opened by

a two hours' discussion of a question box, which was both animated and interesting, bringing out a wide expression of opinion on various literary topics. At the close the place of meeting for next year was taken up, and a decision was reached in favor of Burlington. The report of the nominating committee was received.

Officers for the coming year are as follows: President, A. P. Fleming, Des Moines; vice-president, George W. Wakefield, Sioux City; secretary and treasurer, Harriette L. McCrory, Cedar Rapids. Executive committee: A. P. Fleming, Des Moines; George W. Wakefield, Sioux City; Harriette L. McCrory, Cedar Rapids; Helene T. George, Sioux Falls, S. D., and M. T. Rohrer, Council Bluffs. Program committee: Harriette L. McCrory, Cedar Rapids; Margaret Brown, Chariton, and Dr W. N. Heaton, Des Moines.

At the close of the session the company, with a number of citizens of the city, took trolley cars for the grounds of the boat clubs, where a most enjoyable two hours was spent viewing the scenery and rowing on the Sioux river.

Friday evening the association and a large audience of Sioux City people were given a treat in a lecture by Dr E. Benjamin Andrews, chancellor of Nebraska university, on Education through reading, which was both entertaining and helpful. Afterwards an hour was spent in a social way, with dainty refreshments, and at its close the meeting for 1900 adjourned.

Michigan—The tenth annual meeting of the Michigan Library association met at Albion, November 9-10. There was the largest attendance in the history of the association.

The meeting opened in the library room of the club house by an address of welcome from W. J. McKone, superintendent of schools. This was fittingly responded to by Pres. Utley. The paper of the afternoon was by Mrs M. C. Spencer, state librarian, on Traveling libraries. She traced the movement for their establishment in Michi-

gan, and the progress since the work had begun. She compared their efficiency with the same work in other states to the advantage of the work in Michigan. She bore down rather heavily on the work in Wisconsin, where she thought too much money was spent for machinery and not enough for books, and the standard of the books sent out was not sufficiently high. She deplored the time and money used in the picture work in that state also.

Miss Freeman, president of the Indiana Library association, who was present, called attention to the work that was being done with traveling libraries in her own state, no mention of which had been made.

Pres. Utley called on Miss Ahern of Chicago, who was present, and in response she talked of the good influence of the traveling libraries in the rural districts of Wisconsin, and of the philanthropy of the citizens, which made it possible to furnish books and papers without cost to sparsely settled regions. She explained the work of the officers of the commission, secretary, organizer, and library instructor, and referred to the light and happiness brought into the country homes and schools by the traveling pictures. She complimented Michigan on the fine report of the work, and urged the establishment of public libraries in every community in the state.

The evening session was devoted to a most interesting lecture on Gutenberg, by James E. Scripps of Detroit. At its close a reception was tendered the visitors by the clubs of Albion, and a most enjoyable evening followed.

The Saturday morning session opened with a paper on Our library league, by Agnes Burns of the Sage library, West Bay City. It was an account of the formation and work of the league in that city, and was told in a very charming manner.

May G. Quigley, of the Grand Rapids public library, gave a most interesting paper on Illustrated bulletin boards, showing samples of the same, giving

the cost and the various uses to which they may be put.

Marie Ganley, of the Detroit public library, gave a full and interesting paper on Some problems in cataloging, which was much enjoyed by the audience. [This paper will appear later in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.]

Much discussion followed these papers.

In speaking of the need of a library league to look after the care of books, Mr Utley said that his observation led him to say, that American children did not take such good care of library books and public property in general as the foreign children. Advised posting laws on mutilating books in library. Mrs Spencer spoke of the fine condition of the traveling libraries, saying that those longest in use, for five years past, had not yet needed repairs.

Miss Freeman, on Bulletin work, told of the many attractions afforded by a blackboard and colored chalk. She uses gray felt carpet paper for mounting pictures.

Mr Finney of Ann Arbor, on Cataloging, advocated the selection of a large number of subject headings on lists ready to be used as needed in cataloging. Thought it would serve individual needs better than A. L. A. subject headings.

Dr Fisk, formerly president of Albion college, recalled the improvements he had seen in educational work in the 60 years since he had been graduated from Michigan university. He said he was most impressed by the changes, and firmly believed the teacher and the librarian were of much more importance than the institutions which they governed.

The afternoon session was devoted to business.

Mr Utley urged attendance of Michigan librarians at the next meeting of the A. L. A. at Waukesha next July.

Miss Ahern, as secretary of the Library section of the N. E. A., urged librarians and teachers to attend that meeting, probably in Detroit, also in July.

The officers of the association were elected as follows: President, H. M. Utley, Detroit; first vice-president, Miss Williams, Charlotte; second vice-president, Miss Parker, West Bay City; secretary, G. M. Walton, Ypsilanti; treasurer, Nellie S. Loving, Ann Arbor.

After quite a spirited contest it was voted to hold the next meeting at Adrian in the early fall. T. L.

Censorship of Books

In a recent lecture Col. T. W. Higginson objected to a certain kind of surveillance observed in some libraries.

He said the library existed to give the easy natural contact with books that the school could not give, together with the flavor and charm of a full acquaintance with writers which no manual, reader, series of essays, or selections can ever give. He touched on the risks incurred in throwing open the resources of a library, and said that these were to a great extent imaginary, and that the real danger consisted in the efforts made to defeat them. He recalled his vivid childhood's experience of a book, expurgated by his mother by means of strips of paper pasted over objectionable paragraphs, and referred to the human curiosity which led to the removal of one of these strips, and the tenacity of memory of such things which caused him, in common with others, to remember to this day the expurgation to the exclusion of the rest of the matter.

He drew attention to the grave dangers of censorship, and related an incident respecting the Boston Public library "inferno" some years back which he, in common with some of the trustees inspected, all of them afterward agreeing that half of the books objected to they should not have hesitated to place in their own homes. As an illustration of the evils of censorship he related an anecdote of Pio Nono, who, when asked by an author to aid in the circulating of his book said: I do not see how I can help you unless I place your book in the index expurgatorius!

College Section

Columbia—The question of departmental libraries has been arousing a good deal of interest in Columbia recently.

The use of books in these libraries is necessarily limited, and as many of them, especially in science departments, have attained considerable size, there has been a growing feeling that such a number of books should not be kept so practically inaccessible to the general reader. The general opinion seems to be that departmental libraries should be restricted to such books only as are in constant use by the students in study and experimental work, books which they cannot be expected to buy themselves and yet which they must have within reach.

All other books should be kept in the main building in seminar rooms, similar to those now occupied by literature, history, philosophy, and sociology.

At present this is impossible, so much of the library building having been given up temporarily to business offices and lecture rooms, but a start in this direction has just been made. What was formerly known as the chemical library has been converted into a science seminar room for chemistry, physics, metallurgy, and electrical engineering. It is in an outside building, but it is open day and evening, loans books, and is subject to the same rules and regulations as the main library. All periodicals relating to those subjects will be placed there, and as many of the important books as there is room for.

Illinois—The making of picture bulletins, representing different days, subjects, and events, is now a part of the regular work for our senior library students. Each member of the class is to make one bulletin a month during the school year. A reference list containing all of the matter in the library bearing upon the subject represented is made out and posted with the bulletin. Some of the subjects of the bulletins that have been made are: Hallowe'en, the

birthdays of Coleridge and Sir Christopher Wren, mechanical engineering, current periodicals, football, and Scalchi. A great deal of ingenuity and artistic ability have been displayed by the students in this work. The bulletins are posted in some one of the colleges of the university, in the Urbana public library, or are sent out to some library or club interested in the work. We hope by this means to draw more of the university students to the library, and to stimulate general as well as special reading.

Iowa—The library of the State university now numbers 57,000v., which represents the collection of three years, as the library was almost entirely destroyed by fire in 1897. During the summer many important additions have been made aside from the regular purchases. The United States government has sent about 1200v., which nearly completes the set of public documents. Ex-Pres. Pickard has turned over to the library the bulk of his fine private library and several valuable sets that belonged to ex-Gov. Kirkwood. Pres. MacLean, as a member of the State board of education examiners, has presented the library with 642v., which comprise the list of library books for school districts of Iowa published by the State department of public instruction. A collection of 4000 chemical pamphlets has also been added.

Tulane—The board of administration has issued an invitation for plans in competition for the Tilton memorial library building, prizes being offered for the first, second, and third in order of excellence.

Yale—During the past twelve months the number of books borrowed from the library, not counting the over-night issue of reserved books, has been a little more than 43,000, a number differing little from that of the preceding twelve months. But in the use of books in the library building, both in the general reading-room and by graduate students having access to the shelves, there has been a very manifest increase.

Library Schools

Drexel

The Drexel institute library school association held its annual meeting on October 24. The usual business session was followed by an informal reception to the new class.

Charlotte E. Evans, class of 1900, has been appointed as an assistant in the public library of Erie, Pa.

Mary Fornance, class of '93, has been organizing the Memorial free library of Alexandria, Pa., which was dedicated and opened to the public October 10. Miss Kuhn, class of 1900, has been assisting in the cataloging.

Illinois

The library club opened the year with a successful social evening on September 29. In October came the regular technical meeting when Miss Miles, 1901, read a paper on Local library clubs; Miss Mudge, reference librarian, told of the Ozo club of Albany; Miss Bridgman, 1901, gave a student's impressions of the A. L. A. conference at Montreal, and Miss Sharp and Miss Mann, of the library faculty, closed the enjoyable afternoon with impromptu accounts of different interesting points and occasions of the conference. Tuesday, November 13, the meeting of general interest took place. Prof. C. W. Tooke, of the Department of political science, gave a clear and entertaining address on Modern political science, its spirit and prevailing tendencies.

Mrs Salome Cutler Fairchild of Albany, visited the school November 17 and 19, and addressed the students during the morning of each day.

Among the positions filled since the last report are the following: Mrs Martha B. Clark, '95, organizer, Glasgow (Mo.) public library; Jessie F. Ogden, '95, cataloger, Library of congress; Jane Cooke, '99, organizer, Piqua (Ohio) public library; Marion Sparks, '99, cataloger, Academy of science, Davenport, Iowa; Sarah Ambler, 1900, assistant cataloger, Academy of science, Davenport, Iowa; Clara Howard, 1901, assistant,

Bloomington (Ill.) public library; Ida Sawyer, 1900, head cataloger, Northwestern university, Evanston, Ill.

Among recent university visitors enjoyed by members of the library school are Ernest Seton-Thompson, Jane Addams, and Henry Van Dyke.

Lewis institute, Chicago

The class in library economy at Lewis institute is enjoying a series of lectures on Friday afternoons from visiting librarians and professors in the institute. October 5 Miss Rénée Stern (Armour institute '96-'97) gave a most interesting talk on European libraries, illustrated by manuscripts, photographs, sample slips, with bright little incidents of Miss Stern's personal experience in continental libraries. October 12-19 Dr J. Bishop Tingle, instructor in chemistry at Lewis institute, lectured on the periodical literature and reference works of chemistry, each member of the class being provided with a list of the leading chemical journals, dictionaries, and standard text-books, specially prepared by the lecturer. The peculiar character of each work was briefly commented upon, and the distinctive value of the various periodicals so emphasized as to be of immediate practical aid to the student in reference work. Miss Lyman, director of the children's room at Scoville institute, Oak Park, talked, October 26, on children's books and work among children. A series of beautiful picture bulletins was shown illustrating special topics. At the close of the lecture every student felt that to be a children's librarian must be the most delightful position in the world.

Mrs Wm. J. Southward, better known to the library profession as Elizabeth Shuey, is giving lectures on reference work and bibliography to the class. Mrs Southward began work at the institute immediately after her return from the university of Minnesota, where she was director of the summer library school.

L. E. W. BENEDICT,
Librarian.

Pratt

In order to give the students of the first year course a broader outlook over the library field, while engaged in the tithing of the mint, anise and cumin of library technique, a new branch of instruction has been included in the work of the year which, for want of a better name, is called the Survey of the field. During the biweekly periods given to this work, the director signals new publications that have come to her notice on subjects of especial interest to librarians, pamphlets and reports that are notable in any respect, and the work of summarizing the more important of these is assigned to various members of the class for presentation at the next period. The history of certain library institutions and movements, such as, for instance, the card catalog and the children's leagues, will be among the subjects assigned, so that the student may go out at the end of the first year with an insight into the history and scope of the profession in addition to the knowledge of methods and devices.

It is impossible that some of the subjects presented should not lead to discussion, and so to thinking, which is the main object of all real education.

The school has always given information on these matters of library history in the form of lectures, and these will be continued; but the Survey of the field is intended to keep the student au courant of what is going on, and to lead him to look up the history for himself and make it clear to others.

The work assigned at the first meeting, for example, apropos of various circulars and reports, was as follows:

Summary of the Ohio State library's commission's pamphlet on Ohio libraries, entitled *The new library*. A few practical suggestions.

Report on the California library situation as shown in California municipalities for August.

Report on Georgia libraries, as given in Southern educational journal for September.

Explanation of a scheme for a library

clearing house of duplicates, recently advertised.

Summary of circular of information on the children's museum and library in Brooklyn, with account drawn from a personal visit.

Summary of the recent correspondence between Dr Billings and Comptroller Coler on the consolidation of the libraries of Greater New York.

Report on two articles in the September Atlantic of special interest to the librarian: *The child*, and, *The retrospective review*.

The age limit for applicants for the school is this year raised to 20 years. Exceptions to this rule will be very infrequent, if any.

The Graduates' association gave the usual annual reception to the entering class on the evening of November 8. There were 60 persons present, and the occasion proved unusually agreeable. The annual report of the Graduates' association has recently been published, showing a list of 118 members. New members to the number of 17 have joined the association since the report was printed. MARY W. PLUMMER,

Director.

The average preparation of an American boy for citizenship today is compressed into a five-year course of training. It is not enough. That is why the public library is an institution. It stands to supplement and complete the work of preparation. An ideal library is the ideal tempter of American youth. The best books are the best men and women at their best. A few pennies will put the most intelligent, the cleanest, the best informed and the best men of our times at the elbows of your children at the fireside. I can conceive of no greater force that administers to the intelligence of the public than a public library. It is the best investment of dollars and cents that any community can ever make. It contributes to the welfare of any city. It raises the standard of citizenship of its environment.—*Dr J. H. Canfield.*

News from the Field

East

A subscription library in Boston, for a small sum, delivers and calls for the books at the home of its patrons.

It is stated that there are only four towns in Massachusetts in which there is no public library. These towns are Marlboro, Gay Head, Lakeville, and Norwell.

A life-size bronze bust of the late Gen. F. A. Walker, who was a trustee of the Boston public library, is to be placed in a niche of the south wall of the courtyard of that institution by the city, at a cost of \$2500.

The Salem public library has placed three shelves open to the public in front of the delivery desk. Upon these shelves are placed new books as they come in. The top shelf is devoted to fiction for adults and the lowest shelf to juvenile fiction, while the middle shelf comprises the more solid reading. There are 400 books in the fiction department and 250 of the more solid class.

The patrons of the Holliston (Mass.) library having been much disturbed by disorderly conduct among its young visitors, a novel expedient has been tried which promises reformation. A Boy's library association has been organized, and has chosen five of its members to constitute "a senate" before which all cases of disorder or damage to library property are brought for judgment. Certain privileges given to boys are also subject to the consent and supervision of this boy senate.

The trustees of the Somerville (Mass.) public library have recently received from Mrs Harriet Minot Laughlin, daughter of Isaac Pitman, its first librarian, an offer to donate \$4000 to the use of the library, for the purpose of establishing what is to be known as the Isaac Pitman Library fund. The income is to be used for the purchase of works of art, illustrative, decorative, or otherwise. It is also provided that the annual ap-

propriation by the city government shall not be diminished in consequence of this gift.

The Springfield (Mass.) Republican gives the following account of the vacation reading which was planned by the City library of Springfield: The work of vacation reading, which has been carried on at the City library this summer, has been successfully completed by 61 young people, 23 boys and 38 girls, of an average age of 11. From the selected list of 75 books, including fiction, history, travel, fairy stories and folklore, natural history, and the first principles of civil government, each member of the class has read at least 8. The most popular book has been Scudder's Book of legends, which has circulated 29 times out of a possible 61, while C. J. Bellamy's Return of the fairies has been a close second, with a record of 27. Thompson's Lobo, rag and vixen, Aldrich's Story of a bad boy, Kaler's Life savers, Miller's First book of birds, also have been favorites. Martineau's Peasant and prince shows a circulation of 11, as does Mrs Richard's When I was your age. A pleasant feature of the experiment has been the interest shown by parents who have visited the juvenile department to look over the books and familiarize themselves with the work in progress there. A small eight-page book has been issued by the library to serve as a certificate of each child's reading. Besides the list it contains four blank pages; on these it is hoped that the young people will keep a record of the books which they read during the coming fall and winter. Such lists, if brought to the library for occasional supervision, will prove very useful in the direction of the children's reading, as well as in the selection and purchase of new books.

Central Atlantic

Katherine Mack has been appointed librarian of Erie (Pa.) public library, at a salary of \$1200, to succeed C. E. Wright, who has gone to Carnegie.

The State library of New York now contains 428,714 v., including 63,990 in

the law library, 181,113 in the general library, and 57,754 in the traveling libraries, besides 125,857 bound duplicates.

Mrs Henry C. Rew, wife of the donor of the free public library at Newark, N. Y., died at her home in Evanston, Ill., very suddenly, November 6, of heart disease. Mr Rew was in Newark at the time, superintending the erection of the new library building.

Prof. H. V. Hilprecht, of the University of Pennsylvania, has just returned from exploring the ruins of ancient Nippur, where he discovered a library which he claims is 5000 years old. He says of his discovery: I say confidently that the library of Nippur, with its documents giving us the history of civilization 5000 years before Christ, is the oldest that can ever be excavated. I base this conclusion on my discovery that the people of that time were worshipping the god Bel. The tablets which have been found in Babylonian ruins of later dates all talk about this god as the father of their gods. So you see, when we find a library in which the tablets tell us that the people of that day were worshipping this father of the later Babylonian gods, we can say confidently that the library of Nippur is the most ancient collection that will ever be found in Babylon.

Central

William J. McSurely has been elected librarian of the Miami university at Oxford, Ohio.

Oconomowoc, Wis., has received a gift of \$4500 from summer visitors for a public library.

Under the new law in Iowa, \$54,000 will be collected for the purchase of books for school libraries in that state.

Julia Elliott, formerly editor of the Cumulative index, has been appointed librarian of the Marinette (Wis.) public library.

Alice P. Bixby, Illinois '99-1900, has been chosen to take charge of the reference work in the Decatur (Ill.) public library.

St Cloud, Minn., has levied a tax for a public library which will bring an income of more than \$3000 a year. This will make the library free to everyone.

Mrs E. F. Dutton of Sycamore, Ill., will build a \$25,000 library building in that city as a memorial to her husband, the late Gen. E. F. Dutton.

Lettie M. Crafts, assistant librarian of the University of Minnesota, was elected at the recent election as a member of the Library board of Minneapolis by the largest vote ever given to woman in that state.

Mrs Helen B. Lansdowne has been elected librarian of the Covington (Ky.) public library. This library will start with about 20,000 books, and with first-class, up-to-date methods.

Mrs Julia Concannon has been engaged to organize the Yankton (S. D.) college library. This library has about 7500v. which will be classified by the D. C., and a card catalog will be put in.

The supreme court of Michigan has held that libraries belonging to individuals, whatever their kind, are exempt from taxation under section 9 of the general tax law. All libraries of whatever kind are thus free from tax in Michigan.

The annual report of the Peoria (Ill.) public library gives 68,145v. on the shelves; membership 7065; home circulation 167,951v., of which 71.5 per cent was fiction. Selected libraries are placed each autumn in eight of the public schools farthest removed from the central library.

South

Hon. Hoke Smith of Georgia has placed traveling libraries of 60v. each in 16 counties of that state.

Pacific Coast

Mrs Jane Krow Sather of Oakland, Cal., has contributed property worth \$25,000 as a fund for the purchase of books for the law library of the University of California.

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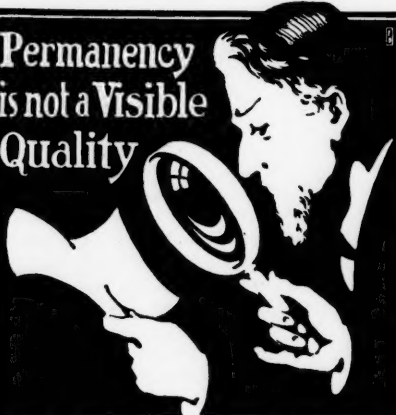
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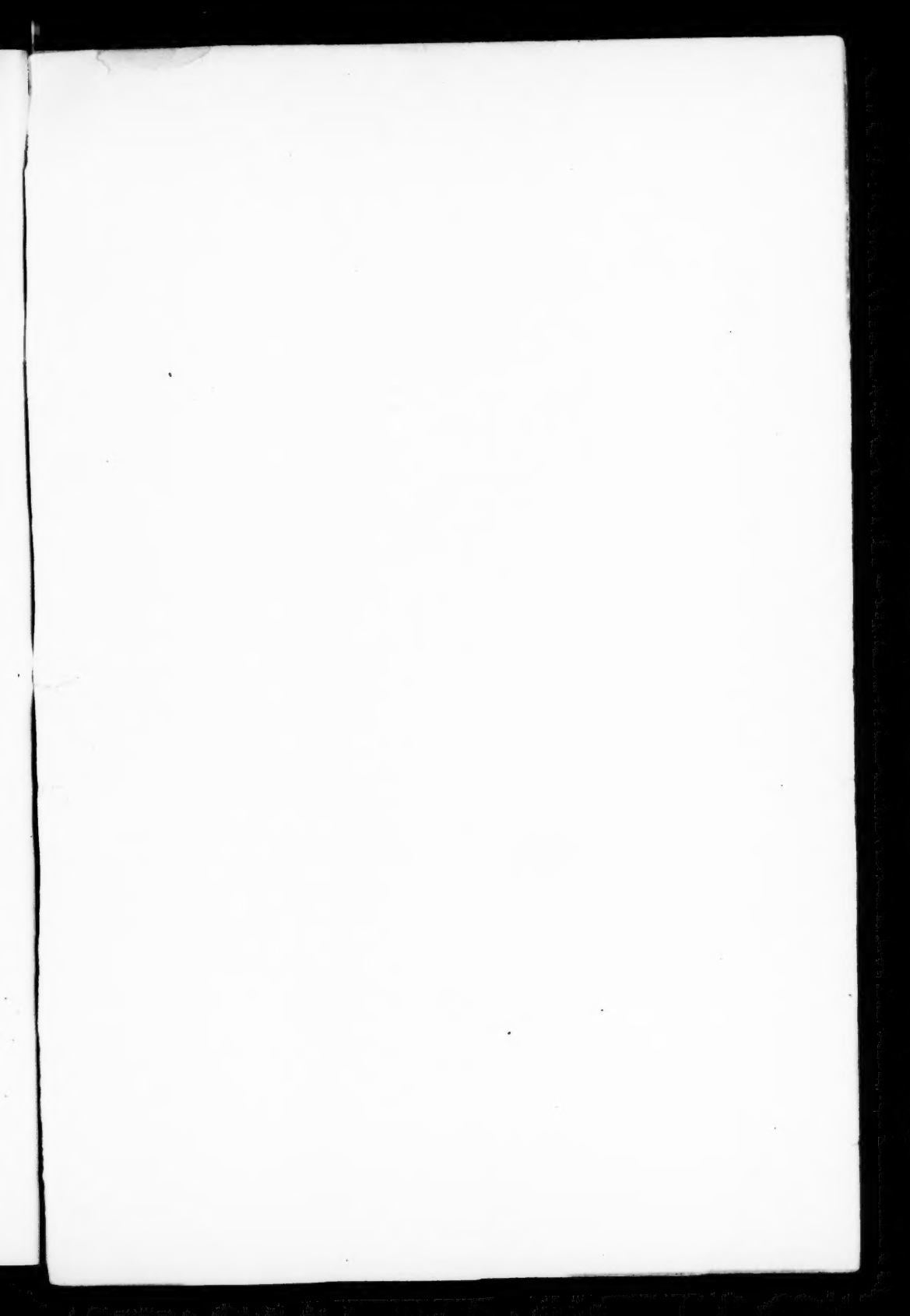
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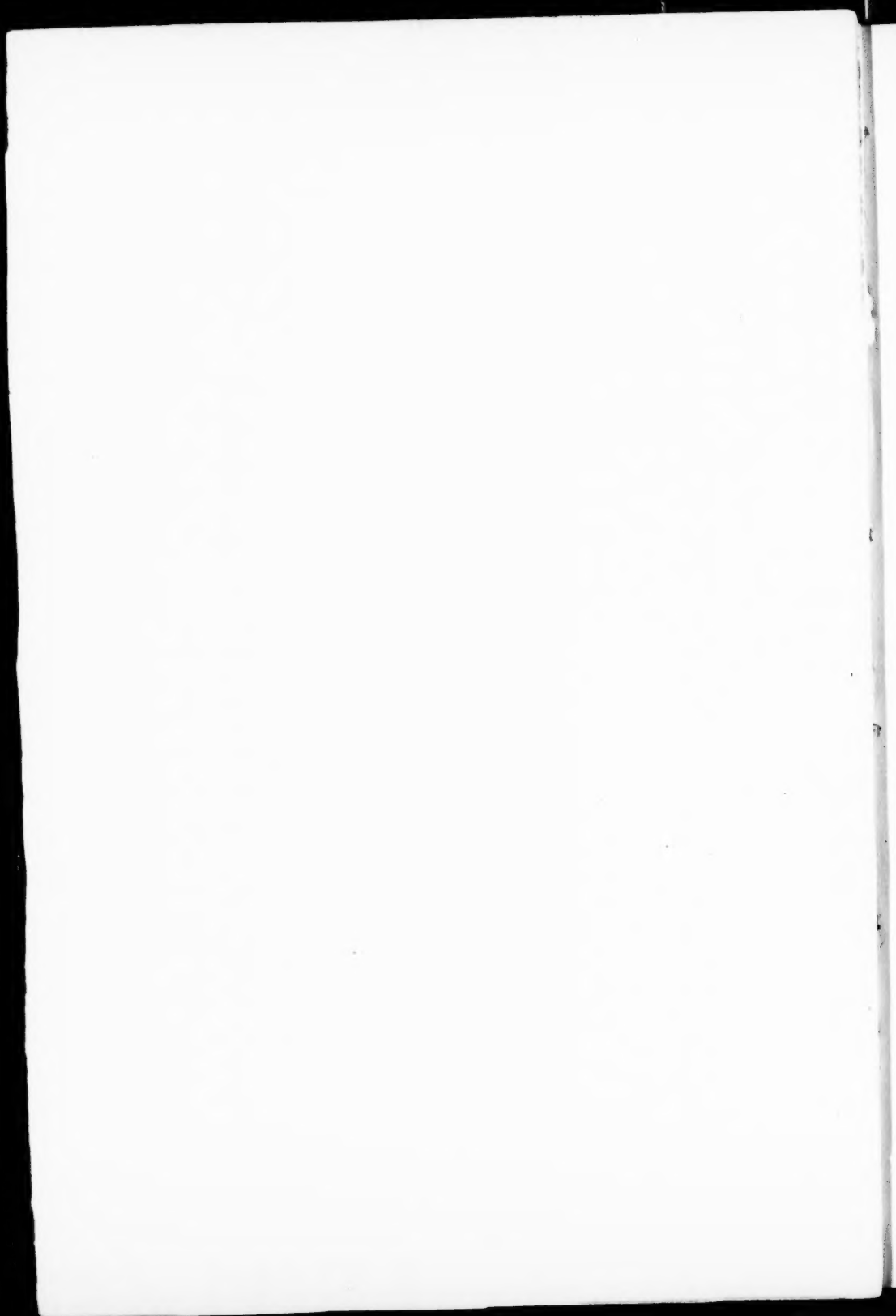
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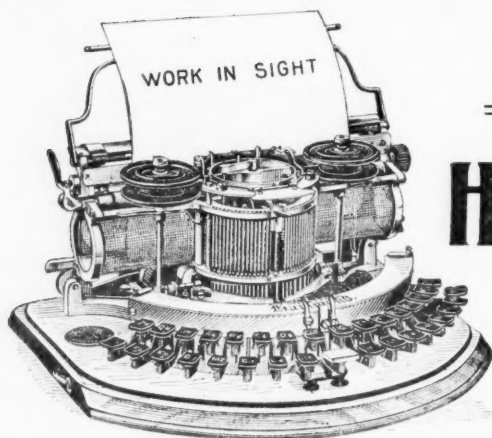
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